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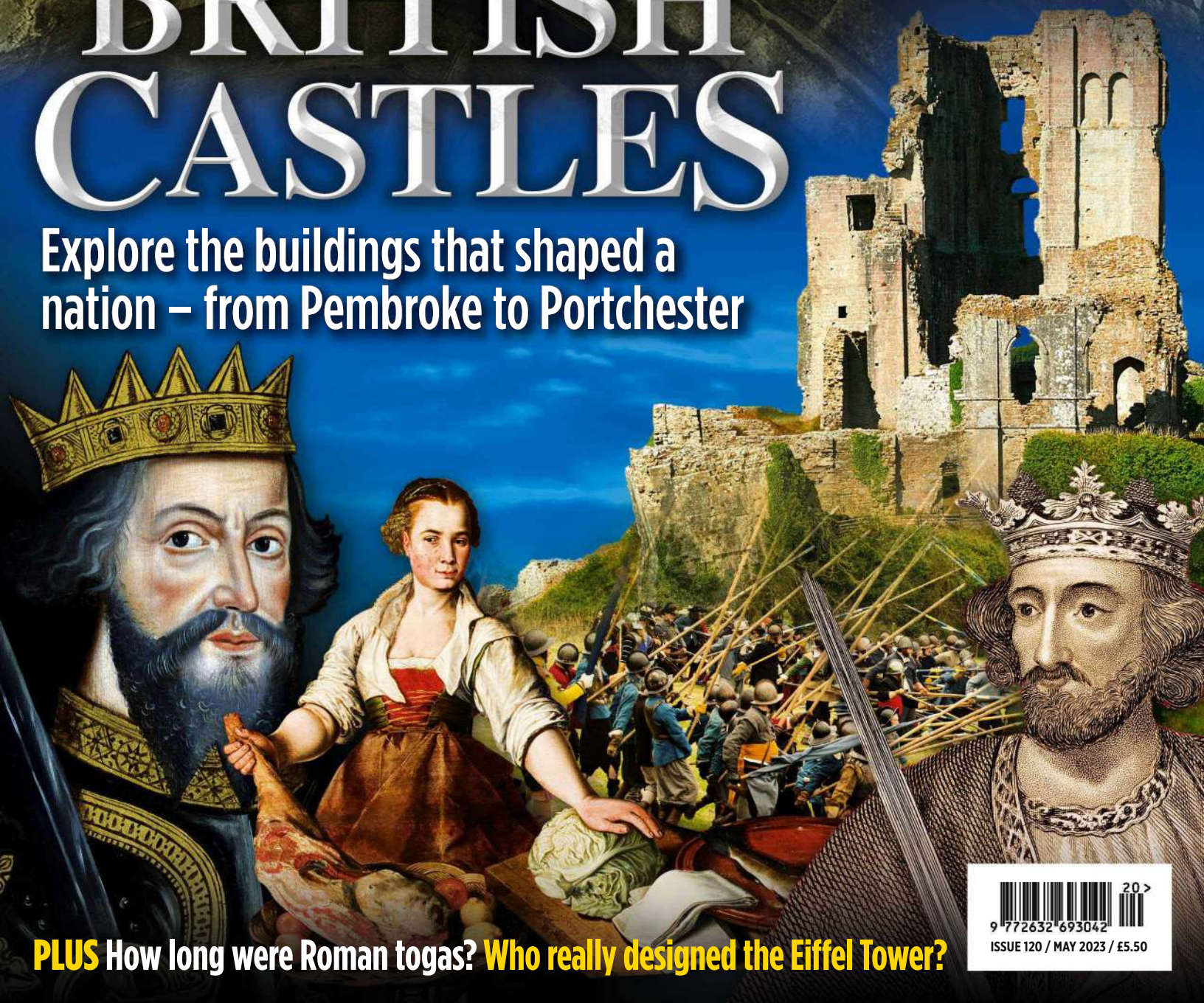

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A generation ago, a woman named Sylvia made a promise. As a doctor's secretary, she'd watched stroke destroy the lives of so many people. She was determined to make sure we could all live in a world where we're far less likely to lose our lives to stroke.

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Stroke Association

WELCOME MAY 2023

Harlech Castle in Gwynedd is just one of the many historic British castles to feature in this month's Essential Guide. Turn to page 27 to get started

A visit to one of Britain's many castles can be the perfect way to spend a day, but it can be hard to imagine how these magnificent buildings – now frequently ruined and unadorned – might have looked in their heyday. For this month's Essential Guide, **we've enlisted the help of Dr Marc Morris to explore Britain's castle history** – from the tidal wave of castle-building that followed the Norman Conquest in 1066, to **siege warfare, interior decoration, and the methods used to erect such huge structures**. Turn to page 27 to get started.

Elsewhere, with the crowning of King Charles III just weeks away, **we take a look at ceremonies of the past with an A–Z of royal coronations** (*page 50*). We also investigate the fascinating life of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the 18th-century French violinist and composer often hailed as the 'black Mozart' (*page 20*), **examine what might have happened had Richard the Lionheart retaken Jerusalem during the Third Crusade** (*page 64*), and share seven fascinating facts about the Vietnam War (*page 24*).

Plus, with a new *Bridgerton* spin-off due to air on Netflix in early May, **we also delve into some of the scandals of King George III and Queen Charlotte's court** (*page 59*), and examine a political painting by 20th-century American artist Alice Neel (*page 56*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

>7m
The amount, in tonnes, of bombs dropped by the US and its allies during the Vietnam War

172
The total number of days that Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire, spent under siege in 1266

31
The number of hours astronauts Pete Conrad and Alan Bean spent on the Moon during the Apollo 12 mission

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USPS Identification Statement
BBC History Revealed (ISSN 2632-6930) (USPS 022-450) May 2023 is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in December) by Immediate Media Company London Limited, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London, W6 7BT, UK. Distributed in the US by NPS Media Group, 2 Enterprise Drive, Suite 420, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodicals postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 401, Williamsport, PA 17703, USA

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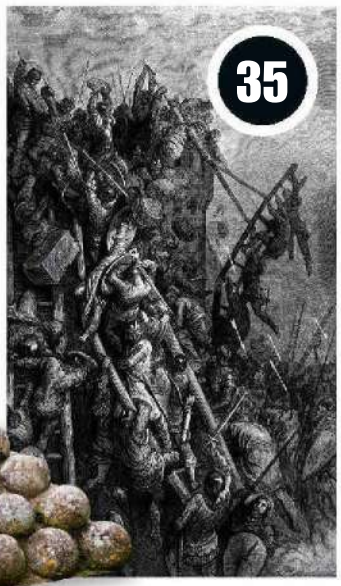

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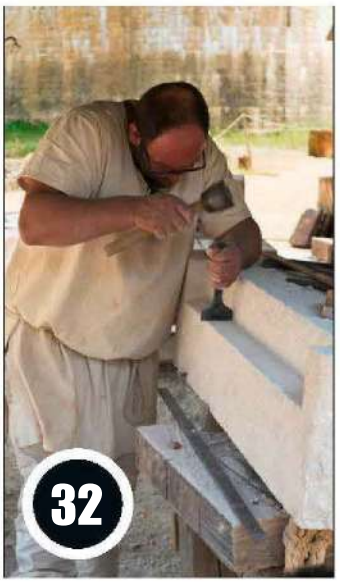

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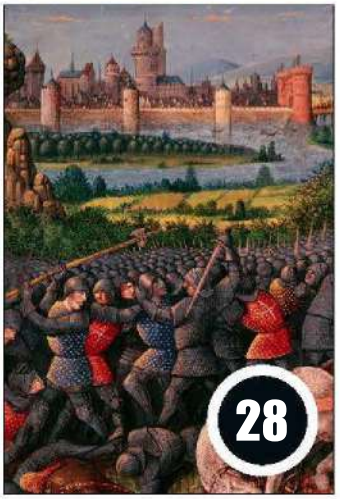

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SNAPSHOTS

1930 ROMANCING THE STONE

For centuries, visitors to Blarney Castle in County Cork, Ireland, have affected the same pose as the young woman seen here. By leaning backwards over a parapet and kissing the Blarney Stone, the legend is that the individual will be bestowed with oratorical prowess. Many theories about the stone's origins have been proffered – including links to Stonehenge and the Stone of Scone (used during the crowning of Scottish and, later, English monarchs). Made from carboniferous limestone, the stone is actually native to southern Ireland. Interestingly, the term 'blarney' (used to describe empty flattery) is said to originate from a story regarding one of the castle's owners, Cormac Teige McCarthy, who used his charm to stop Elizabeth I from taking away his land rights.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1954 BLONDE BOMBSHELL

Halfway through honeymooning in Japan with her baseball star husband Joe DiMaggio, Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe took a quick trip to the recently divided Korean Peninsula in February 1954. She alternated between several military bases over a four-day period, entertaining approximately 100,000 American service personnel with songs from her movies, such as *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Despite the sub-zero temperatures, which later left her fighting bronchial pneumonia, Monroe found the whole experience exhilarating, remarking that it was the first time she had truly felt like a star.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

c1930 BULLSEYE

The ‘hoop and pole’ game depicted here was an extremely popular activity among the indigenous nations and tribes of North America. Variations of the game existed across the continent, but each one typically involved directing a projectile such as a dart, spear or arrow through a moving hollow target. In this photograph taken in California’s San Joaquin Valley, two young Yokuts people can be seen preparing to hurl spears through a hoop made of willow bark and rawhide. While the main purpose of the activity was to have fun, it also helped participants develop their hunting techniques.

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

MAIN: **The obverse of the *bracteate* discovered in Vindelev. The inscription "He is Odin's man" appears around the profile of an unknown ruler**

BELOW RIGHT: **The reverse side of the artefact, which would have been worn as a pendant**

EXPERTS DISCOVER OLDEST KNOWN REFERENCE TO ODIN

A gold disc found in Denmark three years ago is thought to contain the oldest known reference to the Norse god Odin, say experts. The 1,500-year-old item – known as a *bracteate* – is inscribed with the words "He is Odin's man" around the profile of male figure, thought to be a king or local lord. According to runologist Lisbeth Imer, the message suggests that the deity became the subject of worship at least 150 years earlier than previously thought. The *bracteate*, which would have been worn as a pendant, was discovered as part of a hoard in the village of Vindelev that included numerous other items of jewellery, including some fashioned from Roman coins.

ARNOLD MIKKELSEN/NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK X2, NAPOLEONIC AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES CHARITY X1, FINN FILMS X1, FINN FILMS X1, AFP X1, GETTY X1

RICHARD BURTON RECORDING AMONG WELSH ARCHIVE TREASURES

A vast collection of Welsh radio and television recordings has been preserved at a brand-new facility in Aberystwyth. The Wales Broadcast Archive, housed within the National Library of Wales, contains more than half a million items dating back to the early 20th century, including material from the BBC, ITV and Welsh national broadcaster S4C. Among the highlights – which can be accessed on-site, or at partner archives across Wales – is a film about rugby featuring a recital by the Glamorgan-born film star Richard Burton, pictured below.

CHARITY RESTORES FRENCH PRISONER OF WAR GRAVES TO FORMER GLORY

The graves of four French officers imprisoned in Hampshire during the Napoleonic Wars have been given a much-needed makeover. Military grave restorer Steve Davies spent several days cleaning the neglected headstones at St John's Church in Alresford, where the men were buried between 1810 and 1812. Davies, who carried out the work on behalf of the Napoleonic & Revolutionary War Graves Charity, also revamped the grave of Marie Fournier, the wife of another high-ranking French officer.

MYSTERIOUS MING DYNASTY BUDDHA COULD REWRITE HISTORY

The story behind an infant Buddha statue buried on a beach in Western Australia remains a mystery, say experts. Filmmakers Shayne Thomson and Leon Deschamps, who discovered the artefact in Shark Bay five years ago, recently appeared on BBC One's *Antiques Roadshow* in a bid to find out how it might have ended up there. But although the programme's Asian art specialist, Lee Young, confirmed the item was created in Ming dynasty China (1368–1644), historians believe it is unlikely that Chinese ships were visiting Australia in the same period.

£24,000

The price recently fetched at auction for a rare £500 Bank of England note issued in Leeds in 1936

POTENTIAL ROMAN-ERA SPHINX UNEARTHED IN SOUTHERN EGYPT

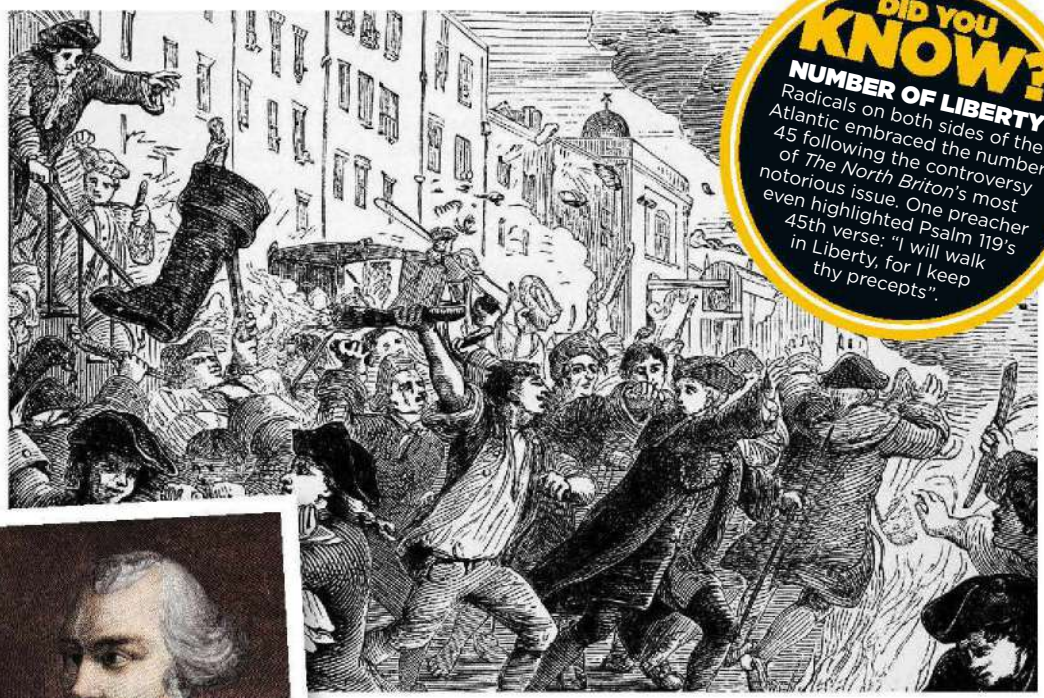
Egyptologists excavating an ancient temple complex near the city of Luxor have uncovered a 'sphinx-like sculpture' inside a limestone basin. The smiling artefact, which was found during excavations at Dendera, boasts facial features resembling those of the Roman emperor Claudius, suggesting it was added after the holy site came under his rule during the first century AD. Experts also managed to locate a Roman-era stone slab containing demotic and hieroglyphic inscriptions, which are yet to be translated.

Deadly riots break out in London

The radical MP John Wilkes attracted loyal support for his outspoken criticism of the government. However, as **Danny Bird** explains, outrage at his 1768 arrest for libel paved the way for bloodshed and anarchy

On 10 May 1768, a crowd of about 15,000 people gathered on St George's Fields in Southwark, south London. The focus of their protest was the adjacent King's Bench Prison, where their champion, the radical MP John Wilkes, had recently been incarcerated for seditious libel.

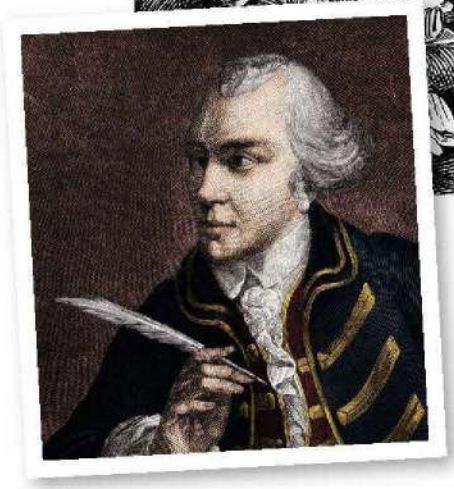
As tensions escalated, magistrates appealed for armed support. Before long, word of a man's murder by soldiers inflamed the febrile situation. When the Riot Act was read out, projectiles rained down on the troops, prompting them to fire at the crowd. Panic surged across the large open space, the multitude dispersed, and riots erupted all over London.



DID YOU KNOW?

NUMBER OF LIBERTY

Radicals on both sides of the Atlantic embraced the number 45 following the controversy of *The North Briton*'s most notorious issue. One preacher even highlighted Psalm 119's 45th verse: "I will walk in Liberty, for I keep thy precepts".



MAIN: **Disorder had previously broken out in 1763, when Londoners protested against the public burning of *The North Briton*'s 45th issue**

ABOVE: **John Wilkes campaigned for personal liberty and parliamentary reform**

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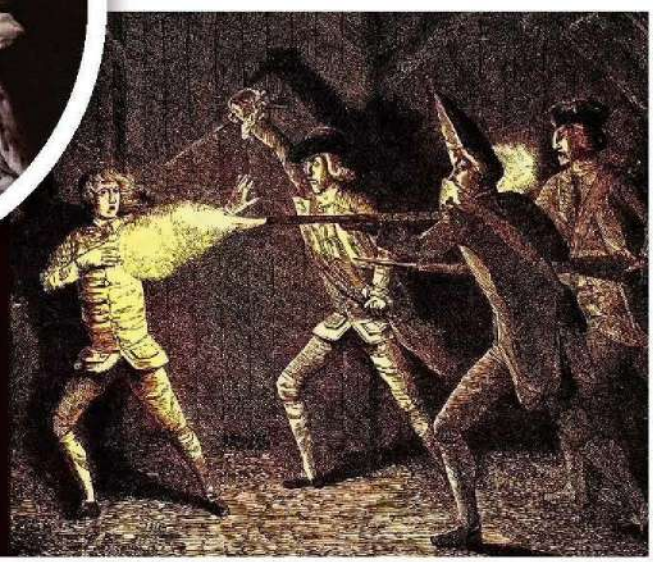
RABBLE-ROUSING

Six years prior, Wilkes had founded a satirical newspaper, *The North Briton*. Its editorial line was particularly scathing of the Earl of Bute, the prime minister and mentor to the young George III. The conclusion of the Seven Years' War in 1763 led to the king hailing the peace terms before the House of Lords – something Wilkes deemed outrageous. Days later, *The North Briton*'s 45th issue denounced the king's address and attacked his ministers for encouraging him to accept the Treaty of Paris' "most odious measures".

The issue number was opportune, recalling the year of the last Jacobite rising (1745) against the reigning Hanoverian dynasty. It also fuelled rumours of Bute's alleged Jacobitism (support for the deposed James II and his heirs, whose strongest support had come from Catholic clans in the Highlands) because of his Scottish heritage. Conversely, however, it presented Wilkes' enemies with an opportunity to silence him. George III, already flustered by *The North Briton*'s scurrilous innuendos about Bute's rumoured affair with his mother, Princess Augusta, issued a general warrant for Wilkes' arrest on a charge of seditious libel.

Radical elements within British society, notably the London mob, rallied to Wilkes. After rebuking general warrants as an affront to England's "ancient freedoms", Wilkes was released when a judge ruled that parliamentary privilege (legal immunity for members of both houses of Parliament) absolved him from prosecution. His supporters lauded the outcome, adopting the slogan "Wilkes and Liberty!", and he reprinted the issue along with a lewd parody of Alexander Pope's famous poem *An Essay on Man*.

But this time, his adversaries doubled down. The poem was condemned as "scandalous, obscene and impious libel" in the Lords, while the Commons voted to proscribe issue 45 as seditious libel, asserting that parliamentarians could not be exempted from such a charge.



ABOVE: **George III contemplated abdicating during the urban unrest**

RIGHT: **News of William Allen's murder ignited the massacre and disorder in London**

"The crowd's mood soured and some began hurling stones at the troops, who primed their weapons"

Wilkes escaped to Paris and was tried in absentia. He was found guilty and declared an outlaw.

URBAN UNREST

After deciding to return to Britain in 1768, Wilkes stood for the Middlesex constituency against the government. But despite winning the seat, the radical MP turned himself in and was imprisoned in April. Over the coming weeks, legions of so-called 'Wilkites' assembled on St George's Fields to protest against his imprisonment, and by 10 May, the number of protesters had swollen to several thousand. One commentator described them as an "unarmed giddy mob", as chants of "Damn the king, damn the government, damn the justices!" reverberated. Fearing the crowd would overwhelm the prison and free Wilkes, magistrates ordered a detachment of Horse Grenadier Guards to repel them from its immediate vicinity.

It didn't go to plan. Amid the chaos, three soldiers from the Scots Guards pursued a particularly provocative protester into a cowhouse next to the Horseshoe Inn, along the fields' eastern flank. Upon entering, an officer fired his musket at the wrong individual, killing the landlord's son, William Allen. Thereafter the crowd's mood soured, and some began hurling stones at the troops, who primed their weapons. There was a crackle of gunfire, resulting in six or seven deaths, while a further 15 people were injured.

After the shootings, the protesters dispersed, carrying Allen's body across London Bridge and into the City. However, the trouble was far from over. Before long, further crowds had massed outside the Mansion House and Parliament, and riots had broken out in Limehouse and Spitalfields. Benjamin Franklin – the future founding father of the United States, who was resident in London at the time – witnessed scenes akin to civil war: "This capital… is now a daily scene of lawless riot and confusion. Mobs patrolling the streets at noonday… soldiers firing among the mobs and killing men, women, and children…"

So acute was the crisis that George III even contemplated abdicating. Of course, he never did. The disorder subsided, and while William Allen's father fought a long legal battle to prosecute two soldiers he believed were responsible for his son's death, the matter was dismissed. As for John Wilkes, he would go on to be released from prison in 1770, before being elected Lord Mayor of London and re-elected as the MP for Middlesex in 1774. While his radicalism softened later in life, his name would forever be associated with the tragedy on that May day in 1768.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MAY THROUGHOUT HISTORY

7 May 558 AD

THE HAGIA SOPHIA'S DOME COLLAPSES

Already damaged by two previous earthquakes in 553 AD and 557 AD, the dome of Constantinople's (modern-day Istanbul) mighty basilica finally succumbs to total structural failure after another tremor. The Byzantine emperor Justinian I entrusts Isidorus the Younger with the dome's reconstruction, which he achieves by incorporating an innovative system of load-distributing supports. The building is reopened just four years later.

9 May 1386

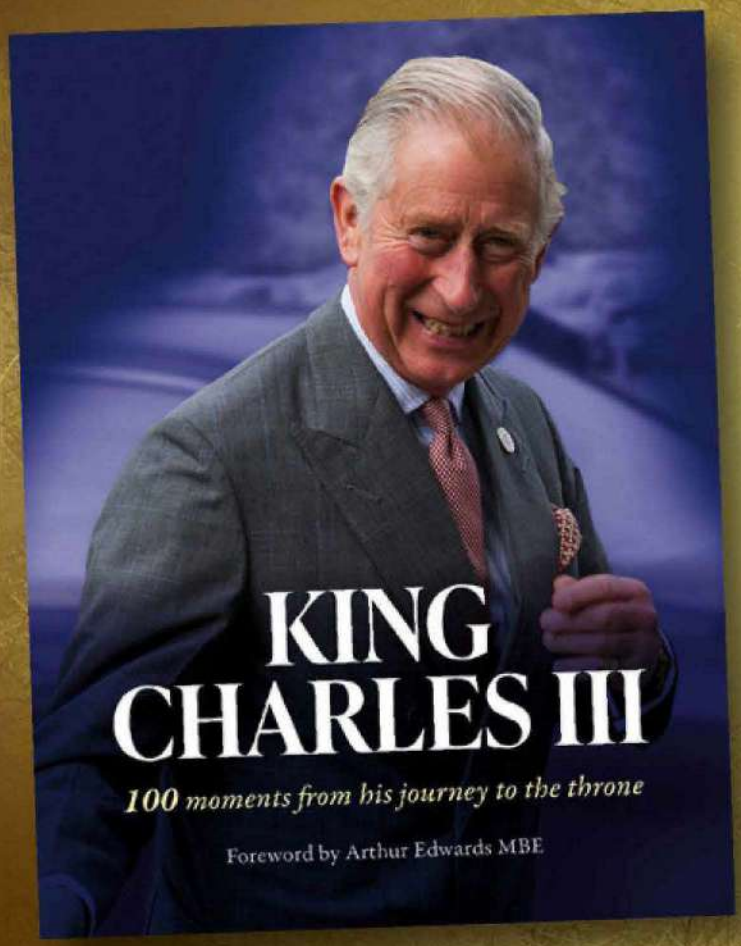
PORTUGAL AND ENGLAND SIGN A LASTING TRUCE

The kingdoms of England and Portugal sign the Treaty of Windsor (*pictured*), sealing a diplomatic alliance that culminates in the marriage of Philippa of Lancaster to King John I of Portugal – a union celebrated with the exchange of wine, salt, oil and other exotic items between the two realms. Enduring to this day, the Treaty of Windsor holds the record for the longest-lasting diplomatic treaty in recorded history.

28 May 1871

TROOPS SUPPRESS THE PARIS COMMUNE

Paris lies in ruins after a week of brutal street fighting between supporters of the two-month-old Paris Commune and French troops. Indiscriminate shelling by government forces and arson leaves many landmarks gutted, while hundreds of people are summarily executed in public spaces. Thousands more are marched on foot to open-air prison camps in Versailles.



100 MOMENTS FROM HIS JOURNEY TO THE THRONE

As the nation celebrates the coronation of a new monarch, take a look back on the life of the man who would be king.

Includes exclusive articles from *The Sun's* archives, rarely seen photographs and a foreword by royal photographer Arthur Edwards MBE.

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THE HISTORY DETECTIVE

DR NELL DARBY INVESTIGATES COLD CASES FROM THE ARCHIVES

CASE #009

THE BATTERSEA FLAT MURDER

WHEN AN ACTOR WAS SHOT DEAD BEHIND A LONDON FLAT IN 1910, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE CULPRIT WAS A BURGLAR SEEN FLEEING THE SCENE. BUT DID THE VICTIM'S PRIVATE LIFE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DEMISE?

Thomas Weldon Anderson was well known to the public as the actor Weldon Atherstone. Born in Liverpool in December 1861, his first mention in theatrical newspaper *The Era* was in 1886, when he was appearing at Liverpool's Alexandra Theatre. Two years later, he married Irish actress Monica Kelly, and the couple had four children. He seemed to have a successful, happy life.

As is often the case, though, the reality was somewhat different. Weldon and Monica separated by 1899, and he then started a relationship with a younger American actress, Elizabeth Earle – known as Bessie – and was a regular visitor to her flat, in a terraced house in Battersea. Weldon was arguably obsessed with Bessie, and after a few years, she started to find his jealousies rather wearying. She had retired from acting and started teaching at what would become the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, but he didn't like her tutoring young men. One evening, Weldon accused Bessie of having had another man staying with her, and then hit her. Later, in 1909, Weldon threatened to cut her throat. He moved out of her flat, but their relationship continued in fits and spurts.

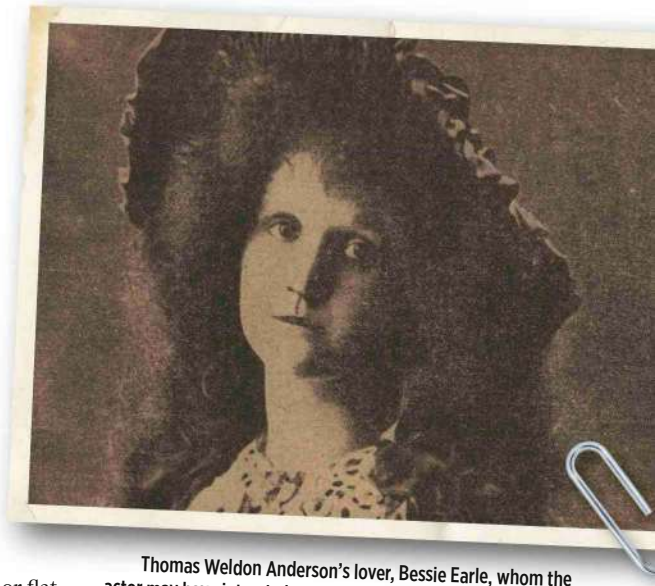
On the evening of Weldon's murder, his elder son, Thomas Frederick, 21, had gone to Bessie's about 8.30pm for supper. The jealous Weldon may have suspected that something was going on between his son and his lover, for on that night, he had got into the empty flat below Bessie's, armed with a cable or cosh, and changed his boots for 'silent' carpet slippers. He then made his way to the iron staircase that led from outside the house to Bessie's first floor flat. It was at the foot of this staircase that he was shot twice at close range, after a "severe struggle".

A diagram printed in the 29 July 1910 edition of the *Ross-shire Journal* shows the killer's likely escape route

TORMENTED BY JEALOUSY

All this emerged at the inquest into Weldon's death, where, although both Bessie and Thomas were questioned, and Bessie openly admitted to the couple's issues, there seemed to be no doubts raised about the theory of the "burglar". A witness denied that the man seen fleeing over Bessie's garden wall was Thomas, but he was not rigorously challenged about the reliability of his sighting.

One theory was that Weldon had gone to the flat that night to murder Bessie, tormented with jealousy, and convinced that she was seeing another man. Knowing that the man was possibly his own son would have undoubtedly made the torment worse. The press speculated that a neighbour may have seen Weldon lurking and thought he was a burglar, so attacked him and quickly fled the scene.



Thomas Weldon Anderson's lover, Bessie Earle, whom the actor may have intended to murder when he himself was killed

Yet there were still unanswered questions. One of the bullets used to kill Weldon was later found in Bessie's scullery sink. There were fingernail scratches over his face and wrists, as though he had been fighting with a woman immediately before he was shot. It was an intriguing case, but there was little real effort to find the murderer, and the case remains unsolved to this day.

DR NELL DARBY is a crime historian and writer, and the presenter of the CBS Reality series *Murder by the Sea*. Her latest book is *Sister Sleuths: Female Detectives in Britain* (Pen & Sword History, 2021)

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 A new series of *Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley* is airing on BBC Radio 4. To stream each episode via BBC Sounds, visit *bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m0016pq3*

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The 1918 Sedition Act

The United States' entry into World War I triggered a wave of frenzied patriotism across the country. However, as **Danny Bird** reveals, this hysteria set the nation on a collision course with its most cherished principles

WHAT WAS THE 1918 SEDITION ACT?

On 16 May 1918, President Woodrow Wilson of the United States signed a piece of federal legislation into law. In fact, this 'Sedition Act' was an amendment to the Espionage Act passed by the US Congress 11 months earlier. Despite years of efforts to maintain the country's neutrality while World War I consumed Europe, America had finally entered the conflict in April 1917. Within weeks, any outlet that cast the US war effort in a negative light, and anything that undermined the government's sale of 'liberty bonds' – debt securities used to fund the Allied cause – was criminalised.

The subsequent Sedition Act expressly persecuted "disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" directed against the government, the national flag and mass conscription (the draft) during wartime. Throughout its enforcement, more than 2,000 Americans were arrested, with some fined upwards of $10,000 and others sentenced to 20 years in prison. Wilson's administration, conscious of the public appetite for keeping America out of the war, as well as political opposition from pacifists, anarchists and socialists, fast-tracked the legislation amid a climate of hysteria.

BELOW LEFT: **A former supporter of American neutrality, Woodrow Wilson presented the nation's war aims as making the world "safe for democracy"**

BELOW: **Anti-German propaganda fuelled American patriotism during World War I**

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

WHY WAS IT PASSED?

To rally the public behind the war effort, Wilson established the Committee on Public Information (CPI) and appointed a public relations guru, George Creel, to head it up. Finding the word 'propaganda' distasteful, Creel instead regarded his brief as akin to advertising – selling a positive angle on the conflict to Americans. Meanwhile, the government, in collaboration with legislators on Capitol Hill and the era's leading newspaper magnates, mounted a concerted effort to get the Sedition Act passed by Congress.

As time went on, the president and his supporters resorted to increasingly extreme and crude ends. Wilson, for instance, openly railed against disloyalty in his speeches and even declared that those out of step with the war effort had "sacrificed their right to civil liberties". Nevertheless, the congressional debate was fierce, with Republican senators putting up the most resistance. Many expressed concern that it undermined the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech. It was ultimately passed, however, with the Socialist representative from New York's 12th District – Meyer London – being a notable dissenting voice.

WHAT DID THE ACT PROHIBIT?

The act was designed to suppress 'disloyalty' to the United States while it was engaged in war, imposing strict limits on speech and writing

LEFT: **Radical figures like Emma Goldman were prime targets for the Sedition Act**

BELOW: **Opponents of the controversial legislation protest outside the White House**

HATE HEALS NO WOUNDS.
DEMOCRACY and POLITICAL PRISONERS DON'T MIX.
SHALL JUSTICE DIE?
WE ARE INNOCENT VICTIMS.
WE ARE WIVES AND CHILDREN of POLITICAL PRISONERS
IS OPINION A CRIME IN U. S. A.?
U.S. ALONE HAS POLITICAL PRISONERS

that were critical of the government, the constitution, the military or the US flag. Everything from labour strikes that might "cripple or hinder the United States in the prosecution of the war" to expressing support for enemy nations were also forbidden. In addition, it empowered the US postmaster general, Albert Sidney Burleson, to intercept mail believed to violate the act's provisions.

WHO DID THE ACT TARGET?

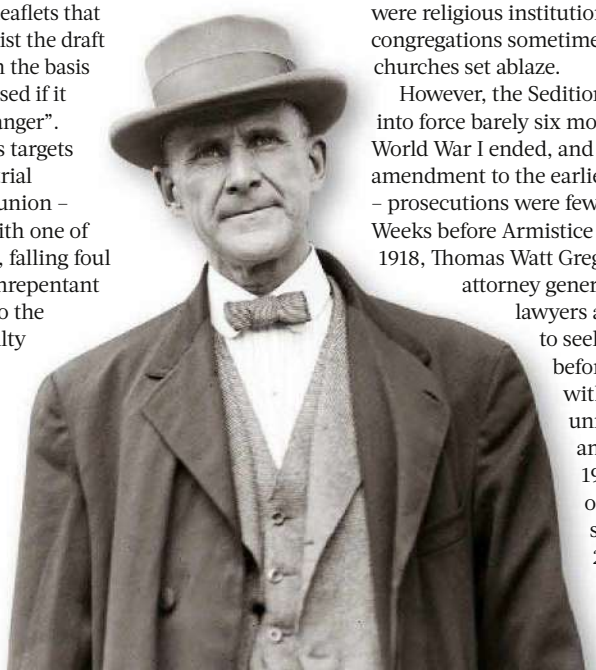
Burleson gladly executed the act's dictates. As a result, the circulation of suspect letters, pamphlets and radical periodicals like *Mother Earth* (edited by the anarchist activist Emma Goldman) were severely disrupted by the postal service's new powers.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court – obliged to uphold the constitution – circumvented the First Amendment. In the landmark case Schenck v United States, Charles Schenck's criminal prosecution for distributing leaflets that encouraged Americans to resist the draft was defended by the court on the basis that speech could be suppressed if it posed a "clear and present danger".

Also chief among the act's targets were members of the Industrial Workers of the World trade union – the so-called 'Wobblies' – with one of its founders, Eugene V Debs, falling foul of its provisions. Debs, an unrepentant critic of mass conscription to the armed forces, was found guilty of breaching the act and sentenced to spend 10 years in jail. His conviction was later commuted by Wilson's successor, President Warren G Harding, and he was released in 1921.

> "Those who refused to buy liberty bonds sometimes woke up to find their front doors had been smeared with paint"

Socialist activist Eugene V Debs openly denounced 'the draft' and was imprisoned for his views



The patriotic fervour whipped up by the act also had wider effects across US society, encouraging some citizens to adopt a mob mentality. People with German heritage were attacked in the street; vigilantes forced naysayers to kiss the US flag in public; and those who refused to buy liberty bonds sometimes woke up to discover their front doors had been smeared with paint. And nor were religious institutions safe: pacifist congregations sometimes had their churches set ablaze.

However, the Sedition Act came into force barely six months before World War I ended, and – being an amendment to the earlier Espionage Act – prosecutions were few and far between. Weeks before Armistice Day in November 1918, Thomas Watt Gregory, the US attorney general, ordered lawyers across America to seek his approval before proceeding with cases. Wilson unrolled a tentative amnesty in March 1919, releasing or reducing the sentences of about 200 convicts.

With the cessation of hostilities in late 1918, the legislation became null and void and it was repealed on 13 December 1920.

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF THE 1918 SEDITION ACT TODAY?

The Sedition Act proved that everyday freedoms could be quickly sacrificed in the name of national security. Yet the prospect of a presidential election in 1920 persuaded a Democratic Party hopeful, A Mitchell Palmer, to outline plans for a peacetime repurposing of the act. Despite his claims that there was a radical conspiracy to provoke African-American communities into unrest, Palmer's proposal was swiftly denounced by his opponents, with publications such as the *Christian Science Monitor* labelling it "an excess of suppression".

Despite the repeal of the Sedition Act, the original Espionage Act remained on the US statute book. Decades later, in 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that criticism of public officials by the press was protected under the First Amendment providing it was based on fact.

Today, the crime of seditious conspiracy remains a serious offence in the US and is defined as the conspiracy by two or more individuals to "overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force" the government of the United States.

READ

Historian and author Terrence J Finnegan reveals seven key facts about America's involvement in World War I on the *HistoryExtra* website: *historyextra.com/america-ww1*

Joseph Bologne: French musical maestro

Nige Tassell tells the story of the celebrated Caribbean-born violinist and composer whose spectacular rise to the top of 18th-century French society is the subject of an upcoming Hollywood biopic

It's a long way from the rural Caribbean to Parisian high society. Arriving into this world on Christmas Day in 1745 in Guadeloupe, Joseph Bologne was born to an enslaved woman named Nanon who was the personal assistant of the wife of a local plantation owner. That plantation owner – Georges de Bologne Saint-Georges – was the baby's father.

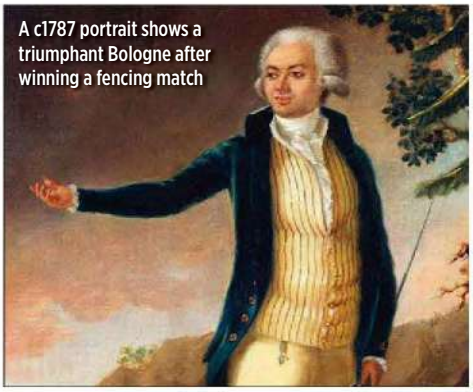
However, despite being married and baby Joseph being born out of wedlock, Georges recognised the child as his and gave him his surname. He appeared to not be affected by any social shame of the time. Indeed, two years after seven-year-old Joseph was sent away to boarding school in France, Georges and Nanon would join him in Paris and the three would live together in a high-status apartment.

When he was 13, Joseph was enrolled in a fencing school where he showed outstanding physical prowess. His sword skills helped him become an officer of the king's bodyguard by 1766. He was also named a *chevalier*, a type of knighthood, which he added to his name (as a man of mixed heritage, he couldn't inherit his father's title: Gentleman of the King's Chamber).

TAKING UP THE BATON

Little is known of Joseph's childhood musical abilities, but in 1769 he took his place as a violinist in the new orchestra of composer François-Joseph Gossec. He appears to have shown similar precociousness in music as he had in fencing; within four years, he became its conductor. Under his baton, the ensemble – Le Concert des Amateurs – rose to become Paris's most celebrated symphony orchestra. Parisians flocked to attend their performances, with women entranced by the handsome Joseph.

By the time he graduated to the conductorship, he had already shown his talent as a soloist when performing the first violin concertos he'd written. During the 1770s, Joseph wrote many works: concertos, symphonies and comic operas. This was a fecund time for him and he was the toast of the French capital.



A c1787 portrait shows a triumphant Bologne after winning a fencing match

Despite his popularity, though, Le Concert des Amateurs dissolved due to a lack of money, but Joseph successfully petitioned wealthy individuals of his acquaintance and a new orchestra, Le Concert de la Loge Olympique, was born. The Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn was commissioned to write a set of six 'Paris' symphonies, which the orchestra premiered to great acclaim. Even Marie Antoinette attended several of the performances.

Joseph was to perform more intimate recitals for the queen at the Palace of Versailles, to which only those in her inner circle were invited. However, around this time, she had also been presented with a petition from three female members of the Paris Opéra. Joseph had been proposed as the company's next director, to which the singers registered their distaste, stressing how they could not possibly take direction from a 'mulatto'. He didn't get the job.

Joseph instead ventured into writing operas and, for a time, lived in the same Paris mansion – owned by another patron of his, the Marquise de Montesson – as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. After the death of her husband, the Duke of Orléans, the marquise retired in mourning, leaving Joseph without a home or professional position.

Having travelled to London, Joseph dusted off his rapier and fenced in a number of exhibition matches, including one for the Prince of Wales. While in England, he also delivered messages from Jacques Pierre Brissot, the founder of the abolitionist Societé des Amis des Noirs, to the leading figures of Britain's anti-slavery movement.

In 1789, as the French Revolution began to simmer, Joseph joined the National Guard in Lille. Three years later, he was appointed colonel of what became known as the Légion Saint-Georges, largely composed of men of colour. But his heroics in battle failed to obscure his close acquaintances with members of the aristocracy and in 1793 he was jailed for a year and a half. He never received a trial for the trumped-up charges of fraud.

THE FINAL CURTAIN

Upon his release, Joseph travelled to the French colony of Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti), which was in the throes of a slave-led revolution. Accompanied by 15,000 troops, his charge was to enact the abolition of slavery. When he returned to Paris, Joseph assembled his final orchestra, Le Cercle de l'Harmonie, with which he rejuvenated himself musically, performing as well as he ever had. But then serious illness struck – one report identified his ailment as an ulcer that had turned gangrenous – and Joseph died in the June of 1799. He was 53 years of age.

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges had packed plenty into those 53 years: champion fencer, adored violinist and composer, war hero and anti-slavery activist. All this had been achieved despite his skin colour. His mixed heritage may have found opposition within French society, but centuries later – and with a new film about his life due for release this year (*see below*) – he is still commemorated as a trailblazing figure in the world of classical music.

GET HOOKED

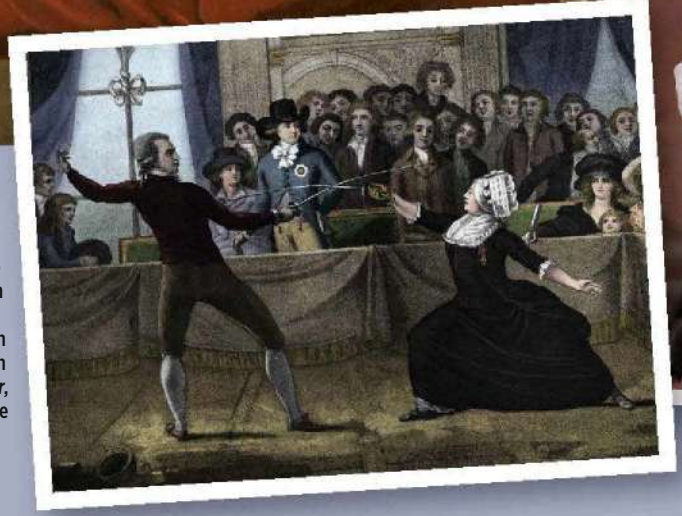
WATCH

A new feature film based on the life of Joseph Bologne, *Chevalier*, is due to for theatrical release in the US on Friday 21 April and the UK on Friday 23 June

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

A c1780 portrait of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. The son of an enslaved woman and a plantation owner, the talented composer, violinist and swordsman became something of an 18th-century celebrity

"Joseph ventured into writing operas and, for a time, lived in the same Paris mansion as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart"



RIGHT: **Bologne fences with the Chevalier d'Eon, a famous French soldier and diplomat who spent the second half of her life openly living as a trans woman**

FAR RIGHT: **American actor Kelvin Harrison Jr (*left*) stars as Bologne in the upcoming feature film *Chevalier*, which charts his unlikely rise to fame**

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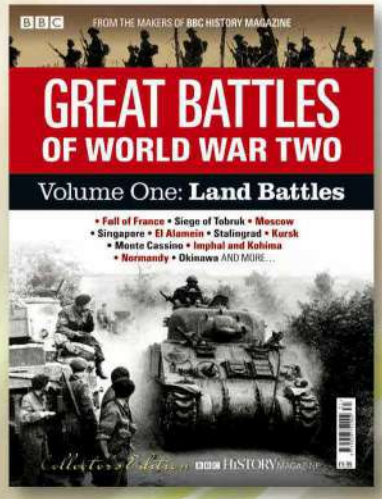
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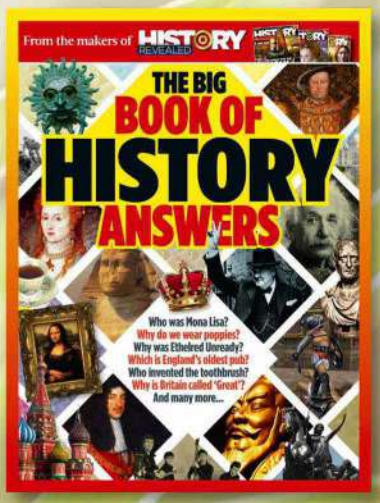
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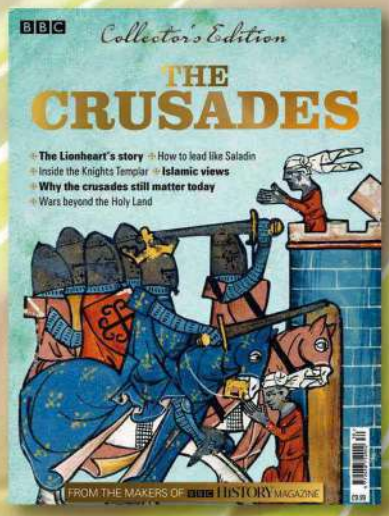

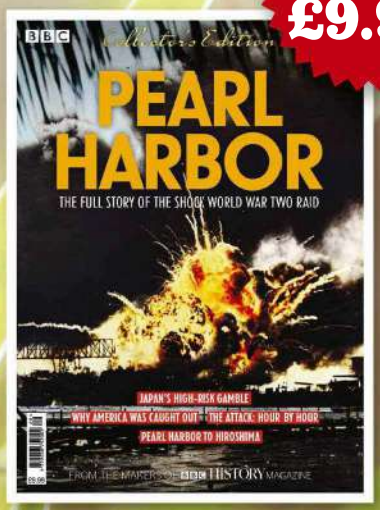
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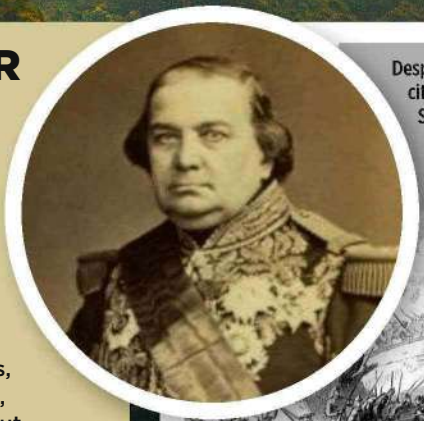
7 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

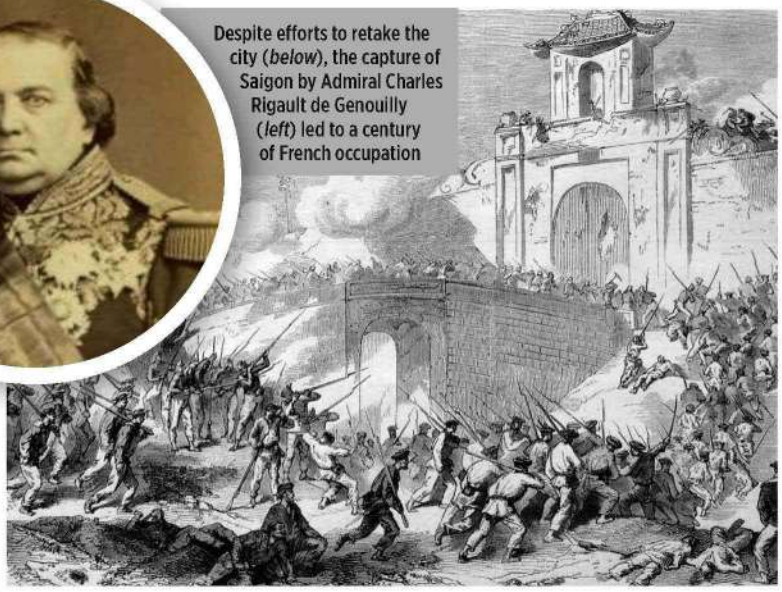
Jem Duducu shares facts about the era-defining conflict in which the US attempted to halt the spread of communism in southeast Asia

1 THE VIETNAM WAR ISN'T CALLED THAT IN VIETNAM

The name itself shows a non-native understanding of the conflict. Instead, the two decades of fighting in Vietnam, from 1954 to 1975, are called "the American War". The Vietnamese made the assumption that the foreign forces who fought in that war were all Americans, but they were not: large numbers of Thais, South Koreans and Australians, to name but a few, fought on the side of South Vietnam.

Western involvement in the Vietnam War was not purely American; this image from 1965 shows Australian troops participating in the conflict





Despite efforts to retake the city (*below*), the capture of Saigon by Admiral Charles Rigault de Genouilly (*left*) led to a century of French occupation

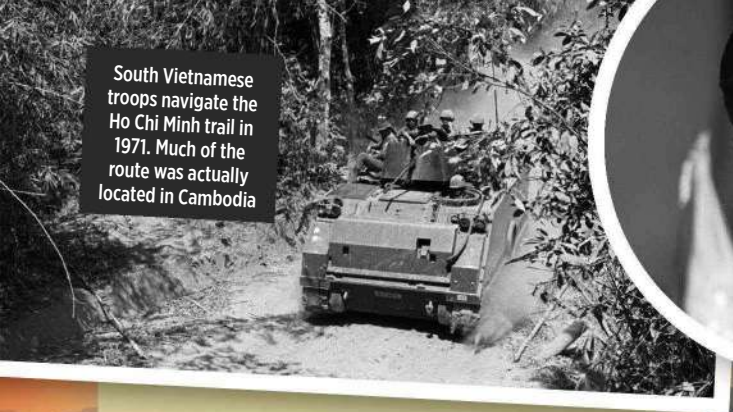
GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X1

2 THE CONFLICT HAD ROOTS IN 19TH-CENTURY FRENCH IMPERIALISM

In 1858, Tourane (modern Da Nang) was attacked and captured by the French admiral Charles Rigault de Genouilly. After leaving a small garrison in place to hold the city, he then journeyed south and captured Saigon (today's Ho Chi Minh City) in early 1859.

This started a century of French occupation, and most of the southeast Asian peninsula (including Vietnam) was renamed French Indochina. The indigenous population was never completely cowed, so rebellions and guerrilla attacks were regular occurrences. The Vietnamese rebels used the dense jungles and mountainous terrains to their advantage in order to attack French forces and escape detection.

During World War II the region came under the control of pro-Axis Vichy forces and Japan, so the Americans armed and trained local forces to fight against them. After the war France tried to reclaim the area, but the better-trained and better-equipped guerrillas defeated France once and for all at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954.



South Vietnamese troops navigate the Ho Chi Minh trail in 1971. Much of the route was actually located in Cambodia

ABOVE: **Nguyen Van Thieu ruled western-backed South Vietnam from 1967 to 1975**

RIGHT: **GIs carry a wounded soldier through the jungle. Hundreds of thousands of Americans ended up serving in Vietnam**

3 THE VIETNAM WAR DIDN'T ONLY TAKE PLACE IN VIETNAM

The poor choice of name for the war fails to reflect how much of southeast Asia it affected. The French had been using Vietnam as a launch point for hostilities against both Burma (now also known as Myanmar) and Thailand (previously Siam until 1939), so it was unsurprising that fighting leaked out of Vietnam's borders. The main reason for this was the so-called Ho Chi Minh trail, a supply line that stretched along the spine of the entire country that enabled the communist powers in the north to supply the communist guerrillas (the Viet Cong) in the south.

However, most of this road network was actually located in neighbouring Cambodia and also ran through parts of Laos. The regular bombing of both countries took place under the orders of American presidents Lyndon B Johnson (in office 1963–69) and Richard Nixon (1969–74).

Unlisted CIA plans (black ops) were also carried out. They were unofficial (and illegal), as America had never formally declared war or confirmed to the public that combat operations were taking place in either Cambodia or Laos.

The instability caused by this unofficial military activity allowed the communists of North Vietnam to help support a communist revolution and civil war in Cambodia. This would lead to the formation of the Khmer Rouge regime (in power from 1975–79), which was responsible for the infamous Cambodian genocide.

4 THE CONFLICT WAS PART OF THE COLD WAR

Technically, the Vietnam conflict was a civil war, with the communist North fighting against the anti-communist South (it was not a democracy and was run by paranoid dictator Nguyen Van Thieu). The country had never been split like this before; the two areas were artificial, with no natural boundary between them, so it was highly likely that one or both sides would attempt to reunite the country by force.

However, the North was backed by communist China and the Soviet Union, and the South was backed by western powers. But in practical terms, with respect to both finances and equipment, it was America that supported the South.

Vietnam became a testing ground for weapons. How well would the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk fare against Soviet-made S-75 Dvina surface-to-air missiles, for instance? Similarly, while the AK-47 had been in use for nearly 20 years, this was the first time it was used wholesale against the American M16. The AK, with the larger clip of bullets (30 versus 20) and fewer moving parts, meant that it rarely jammed and was the perfect jungle ambush weapon.

America (and others) feared that after China and North Korea had fallen to communism, Vietnam might well fall, too. If it went 'red', where would the advance of communism end? The concept was known as the 'domino theory' and hundreds of thousands of Americans were sent to Vietnam in order to fight against it.

5 THE VIETNAM WAR SAW TECHNICAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL INCOMPETENCE

Some of the grimmest stories about equipment malfunctions during the Vietnam War concern the M16 rifle. The guns were initially shipped from the US with incompatible ammunition, meaning that they would jam after only a few shots were fired; indeed, dead Americans were sometimes found in the jungle next to their stripped-down rifles, having tried and failed to dismantle, clean and rebuild their weapons after coming under fire. A later change of powder in the ammunition greatly improved the gun's performance, but the large amount of plastic (rather than wood or metal) used to create the M16 gave it a toy-like quality, which inspired the saying "you can tell it's Mattel" – the slogan of a popular American toy manufacturer.

Similarly, the Americans' new Chinook helicopters were prone to catastrophic failures. Why? It transpired that ground personnel were overloading the cargo bays, assuming that the double-rotor helicopters could take the weight. They couldn't. Multiple Chinooks crashed, killing their crews, all because of this fundamental fault.

ABOVE: **Chinook helicopters, like the aircraft shown here, were regularly overloaded**

LEFT: **The Americans' M16 rifle was originally shipped out to Vietnam with the wrong ammo**

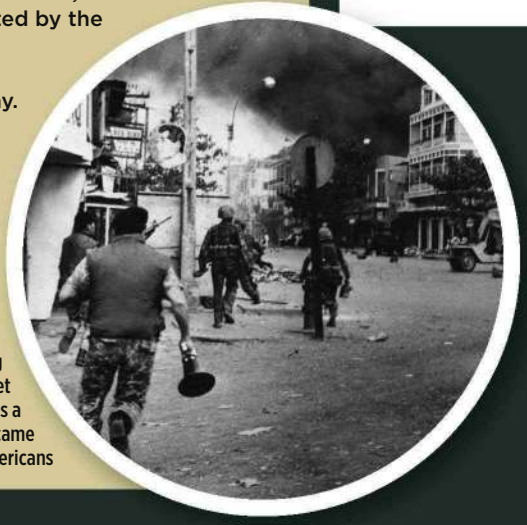
American soldiers assess the damage following the Viet Cong's attack on the US embassy in Saigon, January 1968

6 THE TET OFFENSIVE WAS NOT A MILITARY DEFEAT FOR THE AMERICANS

Tet is the biggest holiday of the year in Vietnam, and in 1968 there was an agreed ceasefire so that everyone could celebrate. However, the Viet Cong saw this as an opportunity to infiltrate a number of key cities in the south, from which they launched attacks on 31 January. Viet Cong commandos even assaulted the US embassy in Saigon, possibly the most heavily defended compound anywhere in the world. To many in the US, this seemed like a humiliating defeat for their forces in Vietnam.

The Americans' fundamental problem during this war was locating the enemy. Up until Tet, most of the fighting had been in the jungles, where Viet Cong guerrillas surfaced without warning and disappeared just as suddenly, using the cover of dense foliage and a widespread network of tunnels. Now the Viet Cong were in an urban environment with no heavy artillery, armour or anything like the numbers of combatants compared to the Americans. Within weeks, the American forces annihilated the Viet Cong. The Viet Cong were never an effective fighting force on their own again after this offensive, and all subsequent combat operations were dominated by the North Vietnamese Army.

Tet was a devastating defeat for the communists, but it's not remembered that way. The American military had been saying for more than a year that the Viet Cong were being constantly ground down. 'Kill counts' were reported on the US nightly news almost like sports scores. So by January 1968, America assumed the Viet Cong were on their last legs. For the Viet Cong to be able to mount such an ambitious offensive proved the American military had been either lying, or caught with their trousers down.



Fighting in Saigon during the Tet Offensive. The Viet Cong's campaign was a failure, but its audacity came as a shock for the Americans

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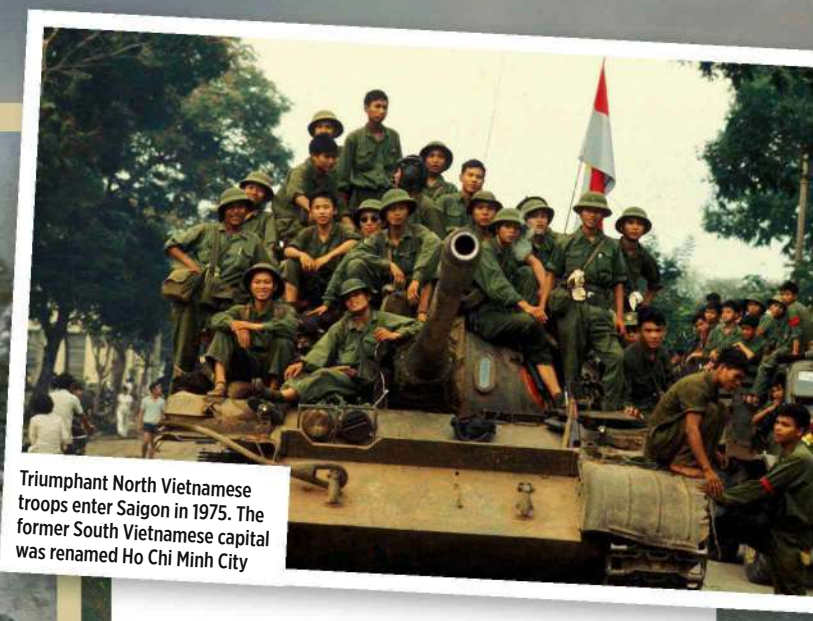

Triumphant North Vietnamese troops enter Saigon in 1975. The former South Vietnamese capital was renamed Ho Chi Minh City

7 THE VIETNAM WAR IS STILL GOING ON IN VIETNAM TODAY

While nearly 60,000 Americans lost their lives in the war, more than 3 million Vietnamese (both North and South, including civilians) also died. By the end of the war in 1975, America had dropped more than 7 million tonnes of bombs on Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos – more than had been dropped during the whole of World War II. In addition, thousands of tonnes of defoliant, known as Agent Orange, destroyed thousands of acres and poisoned the land, killing both humans and livestock and resulting in birth defects in unborn babies.

Both sides used landmines, and it is estimated that these, combined with unexploded ordinance, mean there are some 800,000 tonnes of explosives yet to be made safe in a country where 20 per cent of Vietnam's total area is still thought to contain unexploded devices. In fact, it's been estimated that since 1975 there have been 100,000 casualties (including 40,000 deaths) caused by these dangerous relics of the war.

In conclusion, the story of the Vietnam War combines 19th-century imperialism with 20th-century communist history and late 20th-century American foreign policy. It is a rich and complex era characterised by catastrophic misjudgments, ruthless cover-ups and tragic consequences on all sides.

JEM DUDUCU is a historian and author. His books include *Echoes* (2019), a work of fiction set during the Vietnam War, and the upcoming non-fiction title *Hollywood and History: What the Movies Get Wrong from the Ancient Greeks to Vietnam*, due for publication in June 2023

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Professor Mark Atwood Lawrence answers questions about the Vietnam War on an episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast from 2021: *historyextra.com/vietnam-pod*

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

BRITISH CASTLES

PODCAST

To hear Dr Marc Morris answer questions about British castles on the *HistoryExtra* podcast, scan the QR code below or visit *historyextra.com/podcast*

Uncover the secrets of the spectacular structures that shaped the nation's history: from times of conquest to times of revelry

28 Everything you wanted to know about British castles
Dr Marc Morris answers questions about the incredible buildings that shaped the nation

32 Grand designs
How master masons dreamed up fortresses that could withstand times of war and peace

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Dr Marc Morris shares his tips for prosecuting a siege

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What did a typical day look like for the nobles, knights and servants who called castles their homes?

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Explore the architectural features that made castles unique: from moats to portcullises

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Looking for a castle to visit? You could do no better than to add these amazing landmarks to your checklist

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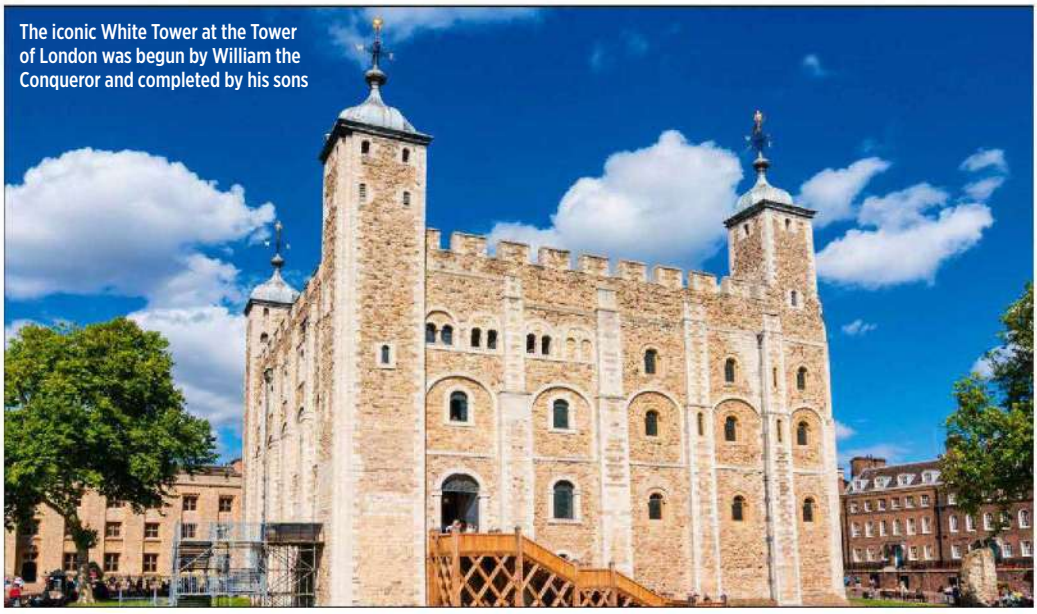
HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

DR MARC MORRIS is the author of several critically acclaimed books on medieval history, including *Castle: A History of the Buildings that Shaped Medieval Britain* (Windmill, 2012)

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X5

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BRITISH CASTLES

Dr Marc Morris answers questions about the origins of the structures and their development over the centuries



The iconic White Tower at the Tower of London was begun by William the Conqueror and completed by his sons

Q: How would you define a castle?

A: Well, the dictionary definition of a castle is fairly limited, describing them as fortresses or strongholds. Now, of course, the primary function of many castles was defence. But they also had to be domestic, a combination of aristocratic residence and fortification. So that's the working definition of a castle, if you like. In more recent decades, more nuanced academic interpretation has argued that not all castles were defensive. Some castles, particularly towards the end of the Middle Ages, were built more for show than for practical, defensive purposes. So the definition then becomes a bit problematic. I subscribe to the idea that if it was called a castle at the time, then it's probably a castle.

I think you can start to be dismissive of castles if they are Iron Age hillforts, such as Maiden Castle in Dorset, or 19th-century baronial pads. They might look good, but I wouldn't add them to my big book of castles. In essence, a castle can broadly be defined as a residential fortress or a fortified residence.

Q: When do we first see castles in Britain?

A: I tend to go with the traditional argument, which is that castles came to England with the Norman Conquest, in 1066. It's a little bit more nuanced than that, of course, in that there are a handful of castles that pre-date the Conquest by 15–20 years. In fact, it's actually useful to take this question back a step and look at when we first see castles in Europe. As I've said, there is a very strong argument that castles were introduced in a tidal wave from 1066, but they were quite novel in western Europe as a whole. It's hard to precisely identify their origins, but in c1000, in western Francia (what later becomes France), you would find castles being built along the Loire Valley and in Normandy. New principalities were emerging at this time and they were becoming very powerful, with wealthy people able to carve out little lordships for themselves. And their weapon of choice was the castle. And what differentiates castles, by my definition, from what came before is that these were private, and they were smaller than old-school fortifications.

Compared with early fortifications – Iron Age hillforts, Roman forts, or indeed the burhs of Anglo-Saxon England [large communal fortifications that covered many acres of land], castles were considerably smaller, and they were built for a lord and his household. So castles were only two or three generations old when the Normans famously invaded England in 1066, and they seemed to come as a big shock to the Anglo-Saxons. There had been one or two castles built in England in the 1050s by French friends of Edward the Confessor, but after 1066 there was a deluge of castle building, something that is lamented by contemporary English chroniclers.

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL
CASTLE POOL
The last remnants of the moat that enclosed the bailey of Hereford Castle (c1050) and St. Guthlac's Priory (7th century)on three sides with the River Wye to the south

Founded in the 1050s, Hereford Castle was one of the first castles to be built in the British Isles. Only a few small remnants survive today

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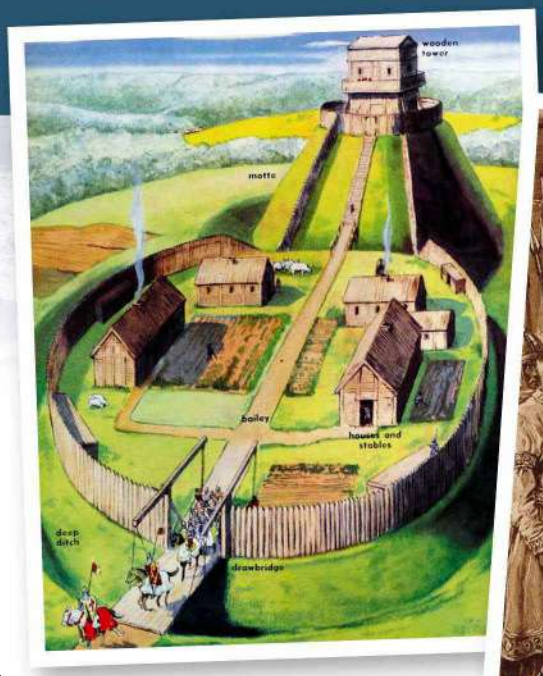
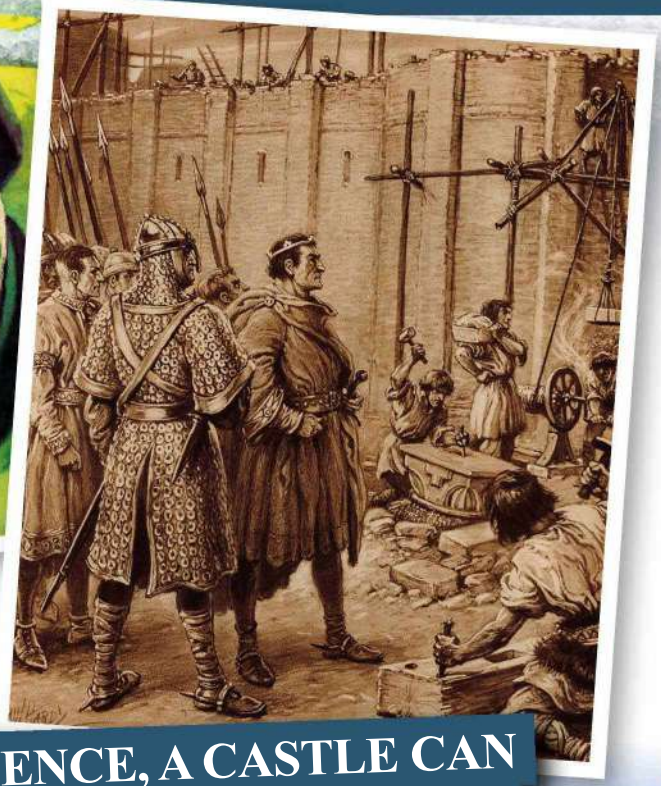


ABOVE: **A drawing showing a Norman motte and bailey castle with a wooden tower**



RIGHT: **A modern illustration imagines William the Conqueror overseeing one of his many castle construction projects**

Q: What types of castles were being built after 1066?

A: Castles developed and changed across the centuries, but those introduced by the Normans were mostly motte-and-bailey structures. The motte was a great artificial mound of earth on which a wooden (later stone) tower was built. A lower, shallower enclosure called the bailey was defended with ditches and wooden palisades, in which everything besides the tower could be found – stables, chapel, great hall, and so on. Motte and baileys made up about 75–80 per cent of the castles built in the two or three generations after the Norman conquest.

Going forwards, all sorts of structural variations were introduced, such as great stone towers. Building began in timber, and then, depending on resources, those wooden buildings would be converted to stone. Most castles remained earth and timber until a lord decided to invest in one or two specific locations, places they really wanted to awe and entertain people. And that's where they would start to rebuild in stone and when you get places like the Tower of London.

In later centuries, you get things like twin-towered gatehouses, and a shift from great towers to curtain walls (defensive walls between two towers or bastions).

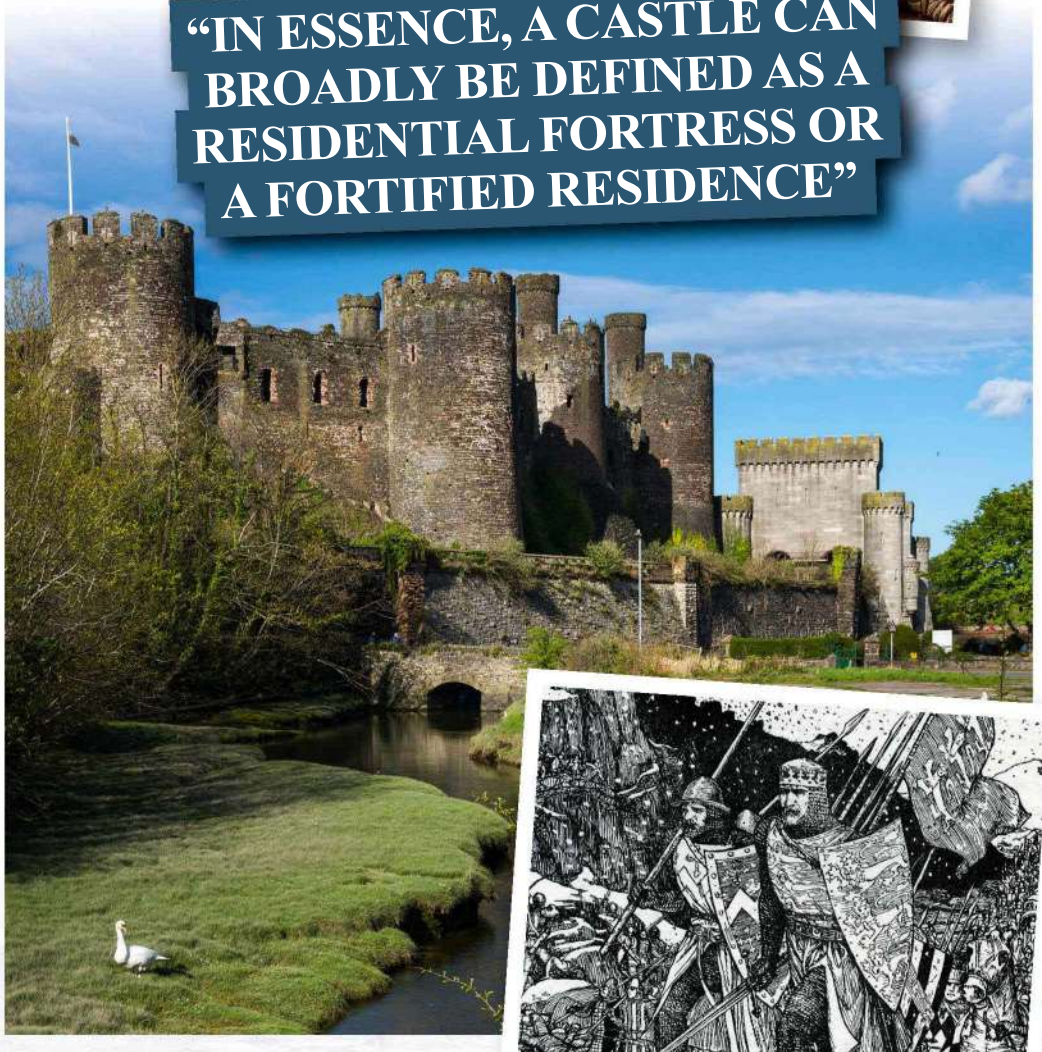
Q: Why were so many castles built in Wales?

A: The principle reason, I would say, was geography. England is – with some exceptions – mostly low-lying land, with rivers and open plains. Once you get into Wales, of course, the landscape is much more hilly and mountainous, with faster-flowing rivers – territory that was much more difficult to control. And it was also land outside of England.

Medieval England was a precociously advanced and centralised state and had a form of royal governance that was much more intrusive and invasive than anything in Wales, which had a host of competing rulers who were also building their own castles in order to secure their territories.

And, of course, Wales takes a long time to be conquered. It wasn't until more than 200 years after the Conquest that Edward I finally conquered north Wales with his string of majestic fortresses, like Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and Beaumaris.

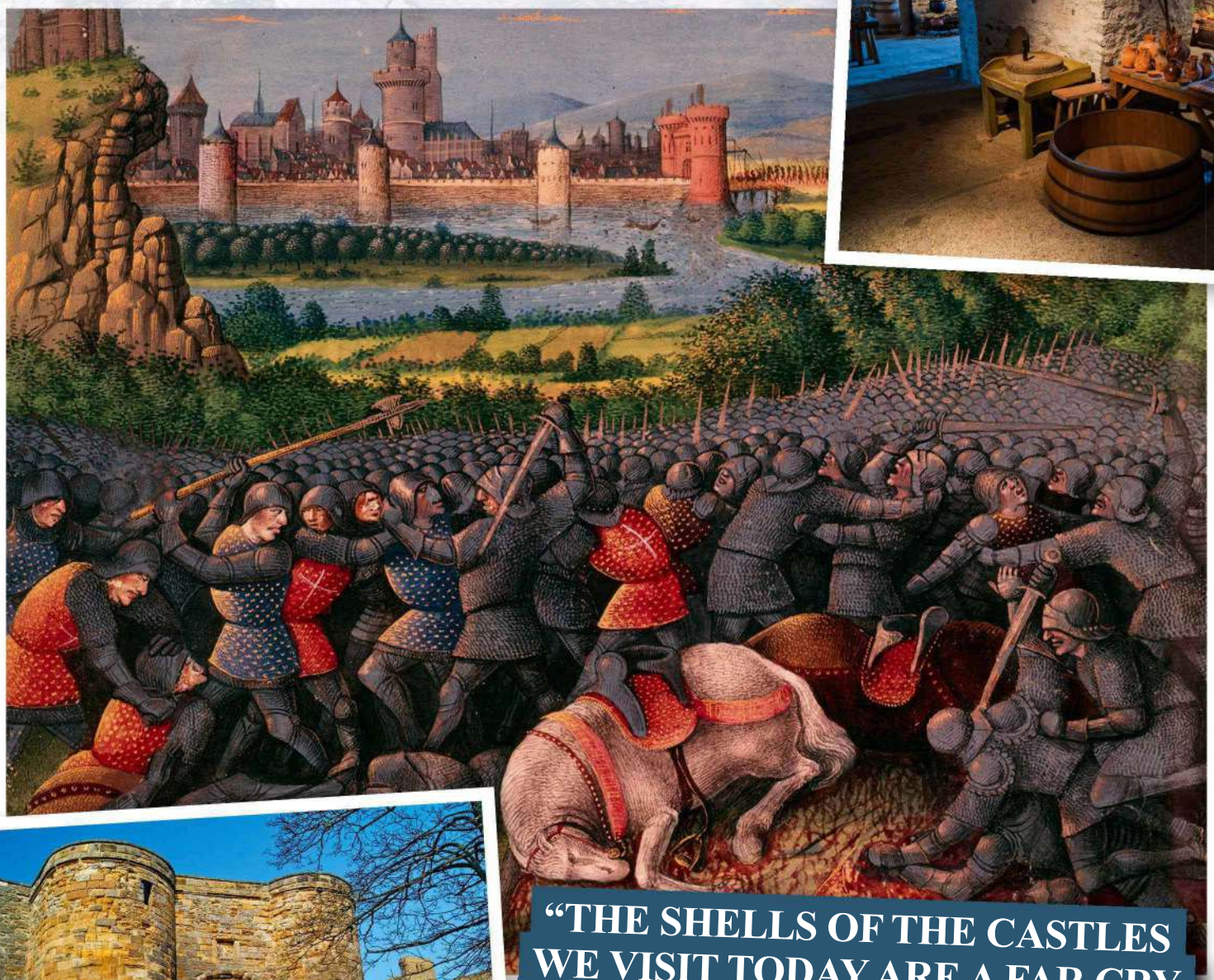
"IN ESSENCE, A CASTLE CAN BROADLY BE DEFINED AS A RESIDENTIAL FORTRESS OR A FORTIFIED RESIDENCE"

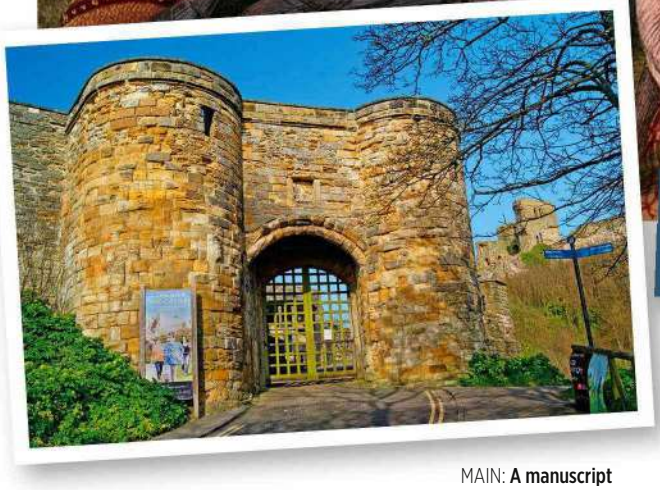


ABOVE: **The late 13th-century Conwy Castle – one of the many fortifications that Edward I built in Wales**

RIGHT: **It took the English king three major military campaigns to finally conquer the Welsh**

A storeroom inside Dover Castle's Great Tower, which was built upon the orders of Henry II





"THE SHELLS OF THE CASTLES WE VISIT TODAY ARE A FAR CRY FROM HOW THEY WOULD HAVE LOOKED IN THEIR HEYDAY"

MAIN: **A manuscript illumination depicting events from the First Crusade. Contrary to popular belief, the castles of Europe were not influenced by the structures crusaders saw in the Middle East**

ABOVE LEFT: **A feature that may have origins in the Middle East, however, is the barbican – like this example at Scarborough Castle**

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X4

Q: Did the Crusades influence castle-building in England?

A: A century or so ago, it was taken as read that the Crusades influenced western architecture. It was believed that western knights went to the Middle East, saw wonderful, more advanced structures, came home and started customising their own castles accordingly. The problem with this theory is, as people have pointed out over the last 50 years or so, is that it's very hard to point to actual examples of architectural borrowing. For example, we could attribute round towers to Middle Eastern influence, but there were actually plenty of round towers in England before the Crusades, evidenced in Roman forts from 800 years earlier. I don't think there's a physical example we can point to as a clear example of architectural borrowing.

The one interesting exception to that rule is the word 'barbican', which is a term used to describe a gate outside the main gate. The word is thought to derive from the Persian or Arabic word *bab-khanah*, meaning gatehouse. We start to see barbicans being talked about in the west in around 1200; the origins of the word suggest that people had seen these exterior gates, which stopped people accessing the main gate, during time spent in the east, and brought the idea back home.

Q: What would daily life have been like inside medieval castles?

A: As I've already mentioned, it's important to remember that castles weren't just built for defence; they were

residential as well. The shells of the castles we visit today are a far cry from how they would have looked in their heyday.

There might have a been a well running up through the centre, which would have provided running water inside the building, while rainwater from a tank on the roof could have been piped into rooms below. Initially, toilets and general creature comforts were a rarity, although there are toilets in the Tower of London that date from the late 11th century. By the late medieval period, however, most castles would have boasted a fireplace in every room, a window with a window seat where you could sit and embroider or read, and a door leading to a privy space with a toilet.

If you were a lesser member of the household, even in a royal household, you wouldn't have had your own room, and would have found a bit of floor on which to bed down for the night. But by the 13th and 14th centuries, senior servants would have expected to have their own rooms and a bed to sleep in.

Q: How were castle interiors decorated?

A: Again, the key word here is luxury. Castles were built by, and for, the richest people in society, people who were used to the finer things in life. Internal walls would have been plastered and then whitewashed – there was no bare masonry on show – and hung with tapestries. The fashion in the 12th and 13th centuries was to trace or paint red lines on the whitewashed walls in a type of brickwork pattern, as if it were made from large blocks of stone. You can still see traces of this design in the upper floors of Marten's Tower at Chepstow Castle in Wales.

Something that might surprise readers is the colour palette used. Bright colours aren't always associated with the Middle Ages, but castles would have been decorated with bright blues, reds and greens. About 14 years ago, English Heritage redecorated the Great Tower of Dover Castle with colours that would have been used when it was first built, in the reign of Henry II – it's probably the best modern approximation of how vivid medieval castle decor could be.

LEFT: **Marten's Tower at Chepstow Castle, south Wales, still boasts plastered and whitewashed walls, with evidence of more intricate decoration visible up close**

BELOW: **Another photograph from inside Dover Castle's Great Tower shows the king's bedchamber, decorated in the bright colours common during Henry II's day**

DR MARC MORRIS is the author of several critically acclaimed books on medieval history, including *Castle: A History of the Buildings that Shaped Medieval Britain* (Windmill, 2012)

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You can listen to a full version of this interview on the *HistoryExtra* podcast, available to stream at *historyextra.com/podcast*

A 12th-century manuscript illumination depicts a team of artisans engaged in a building project. Medieval construction work was arduous, and often dangerous

GRAND DESIGNS

Part fortress, part luxury home, constructing the perfect castle required colossal amounts of money, men and patience

Building a medieval castle was a serious business. The construction site would be a hive of activity: thousands of workers would swarm over the structure, with stonemasons adding to half-finished walls, as a horde of carpenters scraped and sawed fresh timbers into roof beams or fashioned new tools. And the master mason – an architect, building expert and project manager rolled into one – would stride through the scene, making sure the castle was growing according to his exacting specifications.

The castle-building craze had first reached England in 1066, when William the Conqueror claimed the country for his own. The Normans – finding themselves in a hostile land – hastily built motte and bailey castles (comprising a large mound of earth topped by a tower, alongside a shallower enclosure for other buildings). England's rich forests provided a steady – and cheap – supply of timber for these structures, and a crew of carpenters could hammer a tower together in a relatively short timeframe. However, these wooden structures had a clear drawback: they were vulnerable to fire. And, if they weren't being besieged by angry Saxons, mother nature would also sink her teeth into the structures, rotting the wooden timbers.

A mason mark on the medieval wall of the Chapter House at Jervaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire

So if wood was unsuitable for building castles, what could replace it? The answer was stone. It was impervious to the elements and would last for centuries, making it the ideal material for building defensible structures.

This was crucial, as castles weren't simply lavish homes for nobles – they needed to withstand attacks, too. With this in mind, building materials weren't the only important factor: location was also key. Strategic positions that had natural defences, such as a major river, were prized – or else sites that controlled a communication route, like a bridge or a pass.

Once the location was decided upon, plans could

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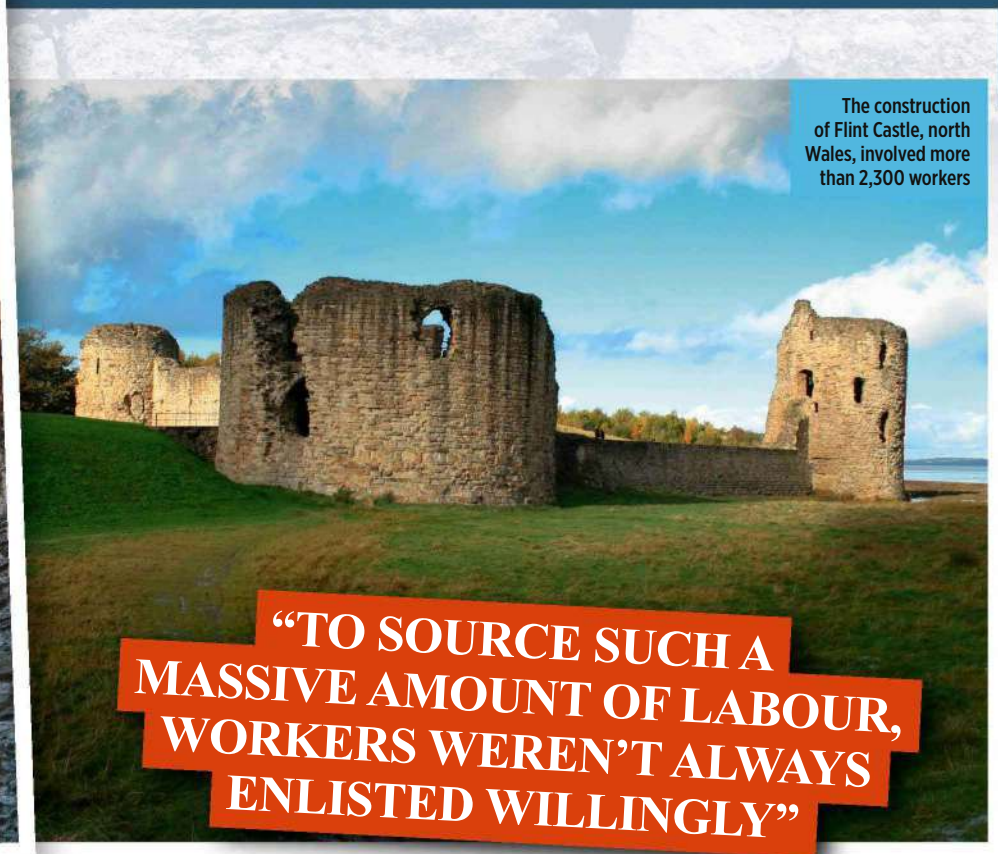


The construction of Flint Castle, north Wales, involved more than 2,300 workers

"TO SOURCE SUCH A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF LABOUR, WORKERS WEREN'T ALWAYS ENLISTED WILLINGLY"

start to be drawn up for the building itself. Castles were designed by master masons: senior builders who were as skilled with a quill as they were with a chisel, and used geometry to create their building designs.

THE CAUSE OF LABOUR

Planning the castle's defences was a vital part of the process. Would it be encircled by a deep, water-filled moat? Would it have an iron portcullis at its main entrance, that could keep attackers out – or trap them inside, to be picked off by defenders? How many arrow slits were needed, and where? And how could defenders stop projectiles from wrecking the castle and allowing attackers to flood inside?

These defensive concerns were usually addressed by the master masons, who were sometimes referred to as 'engineers' on account of their ability to come up with ingenious designs. Often, they were called upon not only to build castles, but also to construct machines with which to attack them. Indeed, they knew how to utilise the devastating power of cannon, and could also design wooden catapults and 'springalds' – mechanical catapults that spat out large bolts. It was well worth stumping up the cash for their expertise: in 1266, Kenilworth Castle (*see page 43*) held out against Henry III's troops for nearly six months due to its impressive water defences and catapult collection.

It wasn't only the cost of hiring an engineer that was staggering, though. The labour costs were astronomical, as it took a small army of men to build a castle – and they could be working on it for up to a decade. For instance, when King Edward I started work on a castle at Flint (in northeast Wales) in 1277, within a month he had 2,300 workers on the royal payroll – including diggers, woodmen, carpenters, masons, smiths and charcoal burners. To source such a massive amount of labour, workers weren't always enlisted willingly: Edward coerced men into serving him, and employed guards to make sure no one escaped.

ABOVE LEFT: **The remains of ornate fireplaces can be seen in this photograph taken inside the ruins of Rochester Castle**

BELOW: **A coloured 16th-century woodcut shows a master mason instructing workers on a building site**

As well as the manpower, there was also the question of lugging resources to the castle. Although stone was excellent from a defensive viewpoint, logistically it presented quite a headache. How could you bring thousands of tonnes of heavy rock to a distant construction site? One solution was to transport loads via water, as the builders of Rochester Castle did: they brought hard-wearing Kentish ragstone to the site via the

A treadwheel crane in La Roque Saint-Christophe, France. The devices could raise and lower heavy loads

River Medway, as well as ferrying softer Caen stone all the way from Normandy at great expense, to fashion the castle's fine fireplaces and window arches.

Huge amounts of earth often had to be moved, too, perhaps to be heaped into a huge motte or else dug out and removed to form expansive moats. In the 1270s, Edward I decided to redesign the Tower of London, encircling the castle with an enormous tidal moat. This required a huge ditch to be dug, which cost more than £4,000 – almost 25 per cent of the project's entire budget.

With such massive amounts of money and resources on the line, then, it was crucial that the building work went off without a hitch. To make sure that the structure followed the master mason's plans to the letter, workers used rope and pegs to mark out the castle's design on the ground and then dug shallow foundation trenches.

To erect the massive structures, medieval builders drew on an arsenal of construction techniques – some of which had been in use since Roman times. One such method was the treadwheel crane, which was used to lift the stones up to build the walls. This crane was like a giant hamster wheel, big enough for a man to stand inside, and was connected to a pulley, a length of rope and a pallet. If you walked in one direction inside the wheel, the rope would rise, bringing the loaded pallet to the top of the wall; if you walked the other way, the rope would be lowered. Using this system, piles of stone could be winched high into the air, so stonemasons could build the imposing castle walls and towers.

ALL THE MOD CONS

A castle wasn't purely about defence: it was also someone's home. Exactly as we do today, castle owners valued fresh water, on demand; a means of warming their home; and a place to relieve themselves. Water was often provided via wells, which could be staggeringly deep: Beeston Castle in Cheshire boasts a well that descends more than 100 metres. Fireplaces were the obvious way of keeping inhabitants warm, with Rochester Castle having hearths in all its main rooms. And toilets (often called garderobes) were typically built inside the castle, discreetly positioned together down a short stretch of corridor. This was entirely practical: by placing all the facilities in the same area, builders only needed to fashion one shared receptacle below for the castle's sewage; and the addition of the short corridor helped to contain the stench.

Interiors were expected to be sumptuous. King Henry III in particular demanded opulence, ordering painters to adorn Winchester Castle's great hall with a map of the world and a "wheel of fortune" in the mid-1230s. From the 14th century onwards, defensive concerns became less important – and aristocrats used their properties to show off their wealth. These grand sensibilities often extended outside, too: there was a great demand for swathes of parkland, where nobles could hunt and ride, and – as the Middle Ages progressed – an increasing desire for gardens.

Striking a balance between constructing a luxury home and an impregnable fortress was no easy task. But the master masons and their armies of workers were certainly up to the challenge, and built structures that continue to fascinate us today.

WORDS: RHIANNON DAVIES

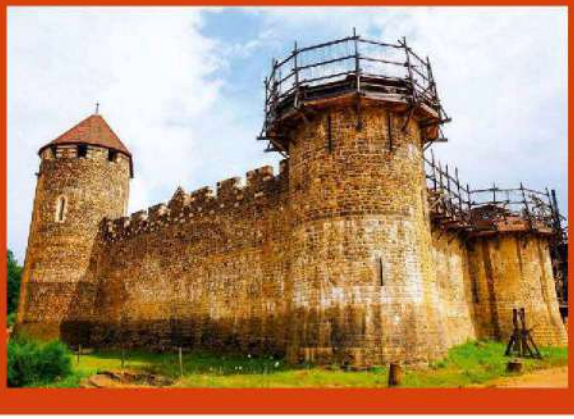
LEFT: The Round Table at Winchester Castle, which was likely made for Edward I – a keen fan of the Arthurian legend. It was later painted during the reign of Henry VIII

DOING IT FOR REAL

A new castle has been under construction in France for over 25 years

The techniques of medieval castle-building are no longer a relic of the past. In the depths of the Guédelon forest, nestled in Burgundy, France, a dedicated team of craftspeople are building a brand-new medieval castle – with only the techniques, tools and materials that were available in the early 13th century at their disposal. (Although they do have to adhere to modern health and safety measures, hiding helmets under their straw caps.)

Since 1997, a roster of quarrymen, stonemasons, woodcutters, carpenters, blacksmiths, tilemakers, carters and ropemakers have been toiling in the forest, bringing their vision to life. When complete, the castle's inner buildings will be guarded by circular towers and protected by high stone walls. This year, the carpenters are planning to finish the pigeon-loft tower's roof, while the stonemasons continue to work on the twin-towered gatehouse. If all goes to plan, the castle should be finished by around 2030.



TOP RIGHT: A costumed stonemason pictured demonstrating his craft at Guédelon Castle, which has been under construction since 1997

ABOVE: The huge structure, which should be complete by 2030, is modelled on a typical 13th-century castle

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

HOW TO CAPTURE A CASTLE

Dr Marc Morris reveals his top tips for prosecuting a successful medieval or early modern siege

Launching an all-out assault on the castle walls could get messy – it was sometimes better to try and sneak in undetected

SURROUND THE CASTLE EFFECTIVELY

This sounds obvious, but in practice it is very difficult to achieve. The surest way to get a garrison to surrender is to starve them into submission, which means ensuring that they can't get any extra supplies of food. Creating an impenetrable ring around a castle, however, presents a considerable challenge. In order to stay safe themselves, the besiegers need to remain beyond the range of the bows or guns of the defenders, so they cannot encircle the castle too tightly. The perimeter of their lines might therefore run for a mile or more, which is a lot of ground to cover, even if you have sufficient troops to do so. It becomes even more difficult at night, when the garrison might try to sneak supplies into the castle under cover of darkness.

When Oliver Cromwell arrived to take over the siege of Pontefract Castle in 1648, he discovered that its royalist garrison were abundantly supplied thanks to the negligence of the previous parliamentarian commander, who had failed to mount an effective blockade. "The castle has been victualled with 240 cattle within these three weeks," he wrote to his colleagues in London, "and they have also gotten in salt enough for them, so that I apprehend they a victualled for a twelvemonth."

GETTY IMAGES X4

RIGHT: **A medieval image shows a scaling ladder perched against a castle wall. Ropes with grappling hooks were sometimes also used**

BELOW: **The royalist defenders of Pontefract Castle still got their hands on a plentiful supply of cattle when under siege in 1648**

TRY TO SNEAK IN

If it's difficult for the besiegers to maintain constant vigilance, the same goes for the defenders. One of the swiftest ways to bring a siege to a successful conclusion is to sneak inside, taking the garrison by surprise. There are various ways that attackers might attempt to go over a castle's walls – by using scaling ladders, or ropes with grappling hooks. They might also bring up to the walls a wheeled tower known as a belfry, though that would almost certainly deny them the element of surprise.

Many famous sieges have been ended by acts of cunning on the part of the besiegers. In the case of Pontefract in 1648, the royalists had originally gained control of the castle by posing as delivery men. The parliamentary garrison had ordered more beds from the town, so the royalists simply walked in carrying beds, concealing their weapons in the mattresses.

When Château Gaillard, the great fortress in Normandy built by Richard the Lionheart, finally fell to the French in 1204, it was thanks to the daring of a small group of men who edged around the walls and stood on each other's shoulders in order to reach the window of a new chapel, lately added to the castle by Richard's brother, King John.

DIG TUNNELS

If going over the walls isn't an option, you could always try going under them. The objective in digging a tunnel is not to emerge, rabbit-like, inside the castle, but to remove the foundations of the walls, thus creating a collapse.

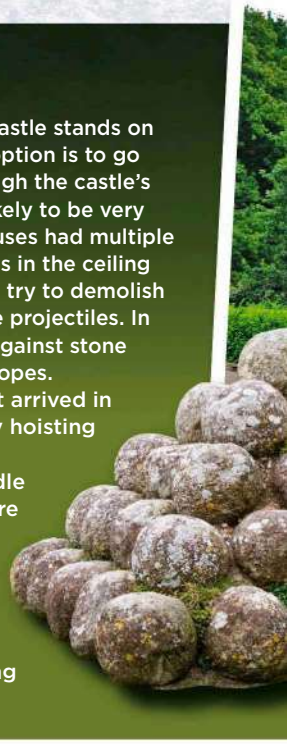
There were two famous examples of this technique during the reign of King John, when he was at war with his barons. In the first case, the king himself laid siege to Rochester Castle, and gained victory by undermining its great tower. In a letter written a few days beforehand, John ordered the delivery of 40 pigs, whose fat was used to burn the props that supported the tunnel dug by his miners.

The following year, John's supporters at Dover Castle found themselves besieged by a French army, led by the future King Louis VIII. The French initially undermined the barbican – a new outer enclosure, with walls made of wood – and then the castle's main gatehouse, causing one of its stone towers to collapse. At Dover, however, the defenders held out, fighting off the attackers and then repairing the breach with timbers from other buildings within the castle.

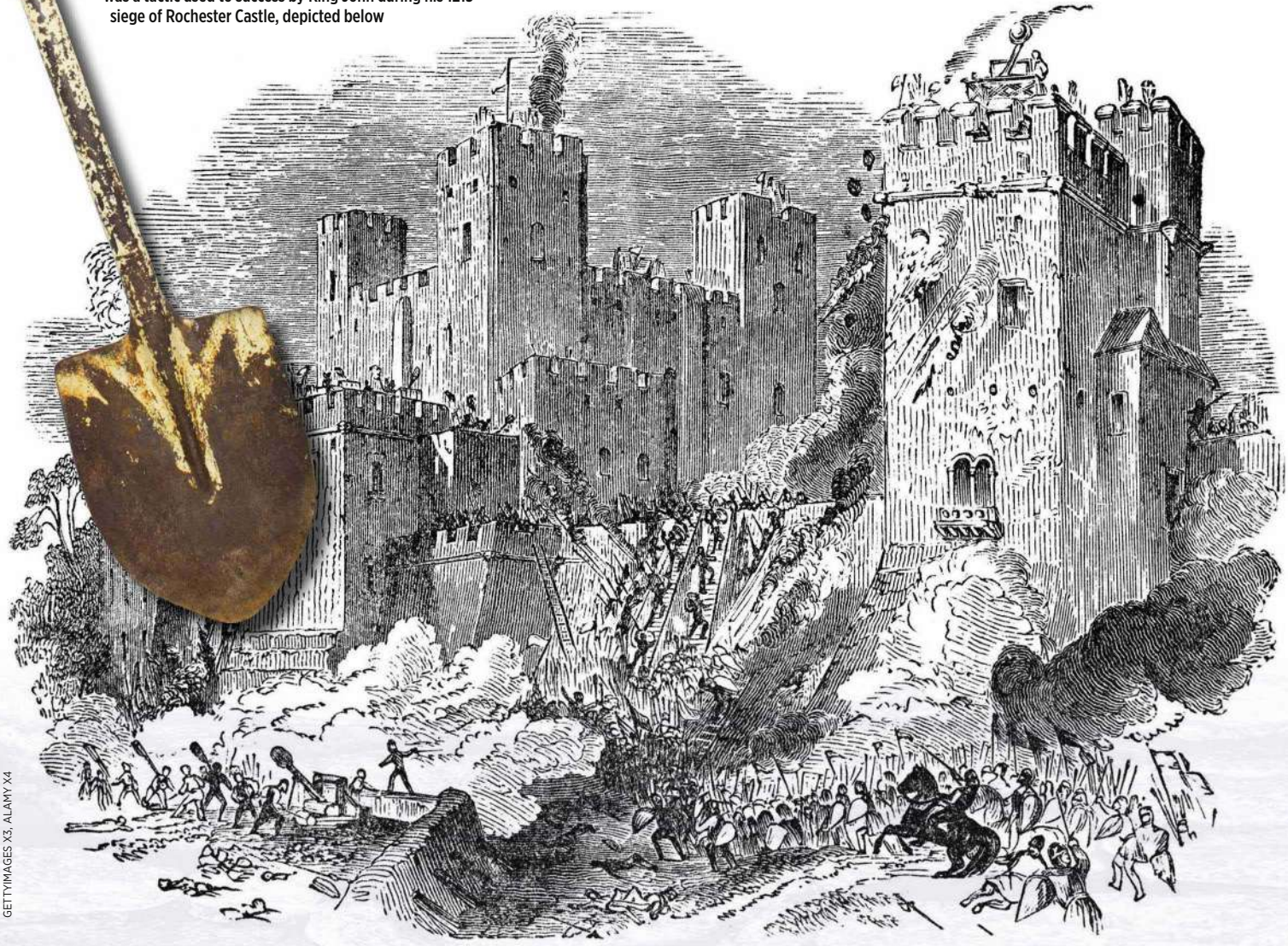
TRY TO SMASH IN

If tunnelling under the walls is impossible – if, say, the castle stands on solid rock, or is surrounded by a moat – then another option is to go through them. You might try to force your way in through the castle's entrance, using a battering ram on the doors, but this is likely to be very heavily defended. By the start of the 13th century, gatehouses had multiple sets of doors and portcullises, protected with murder holes in the ceiling above and arrow-loops throughout. The alternative was to try to demolish the walls themselves by using catapults to hurl giant stone projectiles. In the early days, such machines were not terribly effective against stone castles, because they relied on teams of men tugging on ropes.

Around the year 1200, however, a new type of catapult arrived in Europe. The trebuchet, as it was known, was powered by hoisting a heavy counterweight several feet into the air, and then pulling a lever to let it drop. Towards the end of the Middle Ages, besiegers could bombard a castle's walls even more effectively by using great guns. A mighty surviving example is Mons Meg, cast in 1449 by the Duke of Burgundy as a present for James II of Scotland. The difficulty for besiegers was that such huge weapons took time to construct, in the case of trebuchets, or, in the case of cannon, time to transport – weeks of trundling behind teams of horses or oxen.



Digging underneath a castle and destroying its foundations was a tactic used to success by King John during his 1215 siege of Rochester Castle, depicted below



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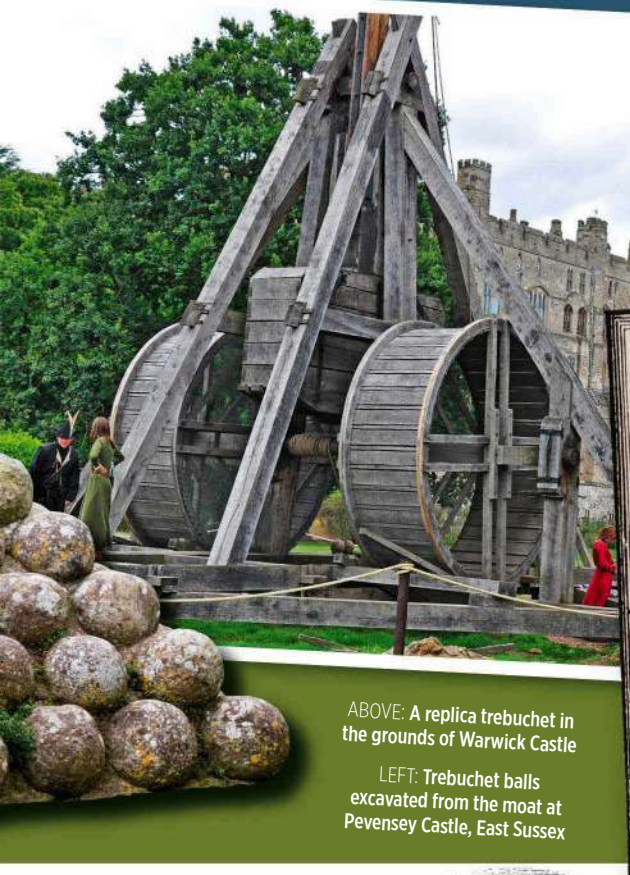
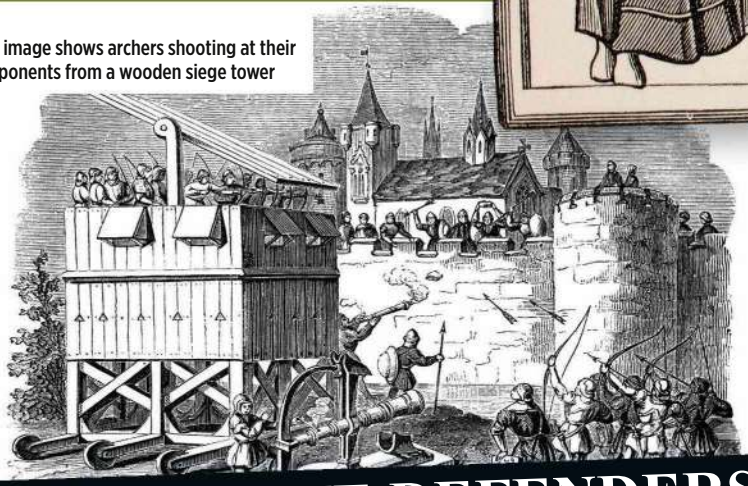


ABOVE: A replica trebuchet in the grounds of Warwick Castle

LEFT: Trebuchet balls excavated from the moat at Pevensey Castle, East Sussex

A 13th-century manuscript illumination shows a king receiving a message. Passing on 'fake news' could sometimes be an effective way of making opponents surrender their strongholds

An image shows archers shooting at their opponents from a wooden siege tower



TARGET THE DEFENDERS

If going over, under, or through the walls proves impossible, a remaining option is to target the people within the castle. Soldiers manning the battlements can be picked off individually by conventional archery or by using crossbows. In later centuries, guns were available, though the earliest examples, being more like blunderbusses, lacked the precision for sniping.

By sending burning arrows into a castle you could try to set light to its wooden buildings, and the same effect could be attempted on a grander scale by throwing flaming projectiles with a trebuchet. An even more insidious ploy would be to hurl the bodies of diseased animals into the castle, in the hope of spreading deadly infection among the defenders.

By far the most terrible anti-personnel weapon in an attacker's arsenal, however, was the mortar. First used in Britain in the 17th century, mortars were shorter and squatter than conventional cannon, because all they had to do was lob their missiles over the walls and into the residential heart of the castle. The missiles themselves, known as grenadoes, were explosive, and on detonation their metal shards would tear through flesh and bone. Just the sight of mortars being moved into position was enough to terrify those inside. "Little ladies had stomach to digest cannon," wrote one of the defenders of Lathom House in 1644, "but the stoutest soldiers had no heart for this... the mortar pieces had frightened 'em from meat and sleep."

SOW FALSE INFORMATION

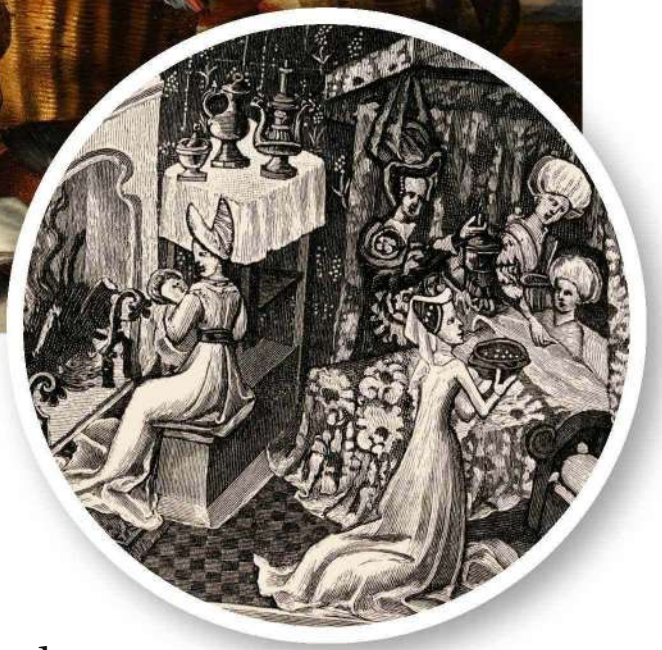
The effect of mortars on the defenders' morale reminds us of the importance of psychological warfare. Very few sieges take place in isolation – they are almost always part of a wider conflict. In most cases, the besiegers will be holding out in the hope of being relieved by some superior force. That being the case, why not send letters or messengers into the castle, telling them that their allies have been defeated in battle, and that all hope of relief is now lost? Assuming you've managed to mount an effective blockade, the defenders will have been deprived not only of food but also of news.

In 1271, the garrison of the great crusader castle of Krak des Chevaliers in Syria surrendered to the besieging forces of the Egyptian sultan, Baibars, after receiving a letter from their supreme commander, the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, instructing them to do so. It was, they later discovered, a forgery concocted by none other than Baibars himself. ⊙

DR MARC MORRIS is the author of several critically acclaimed books on medieval history, including *Castle: A History of the Buildings that Shaped Medieval Britain* (Windmill, 2012)

MAIN: **Food and drink were at the heart of castle entertainment, as depicted in this imagined scene of life at Scotney Castle, Kent**

BELOW RIGHT: **As well as producing heirs and overseeing the household, a noble woman was also expected to manage the castle's affairs in her husband's absence**



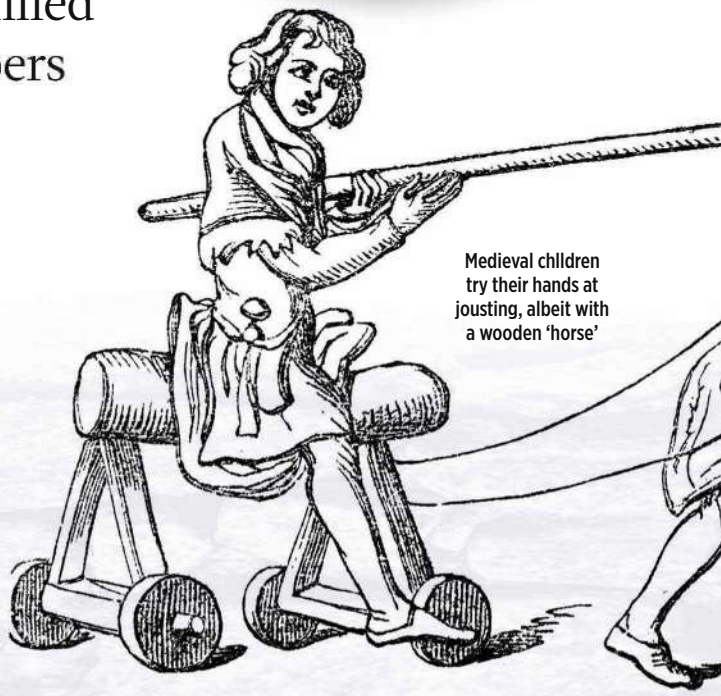
LIFE WITHIN THE WALLS

Medieval castles were hives of activity, filled with servants, soldiers and social climbers

Despite their defensive function, castles in the Middle Ages were also homes and hubs for local enterprise. The size and importance of a castle reflected the scale of its domestic life. They functioned as engines for the feudal economy, with their owners presiding over the management of local rural affairs. During peacetime, they were home to small garrisons of knights, men at arms and archers. But there were also grooms, watchmen, porters, cooks and blacksmiths. The castle's combatant population would increase whenever conflict threatened to break out. Dover Castle's proximity to France, for instance, meant that it was regularly supplied with knights by local barons.

The feudal social order was built into a castle's architecture, with the king, or a lord and lady, cosseted within the most secure parts. While in residence, the nobles resided in comfortable apartments that typically included a busy receiving chamber for visitors, and a private chapel. Although medieval England was a profoundly patriarchal society, noble women could obtain a degree of influence within castles.

The political significance vested in aristocratic marriages and producing heirs meant that the lady commanded a great deal of respect within the social hierarchy, acting as the head of the



Medieval children try their hands at jousting, albeit with a wooden 'horse'

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X5

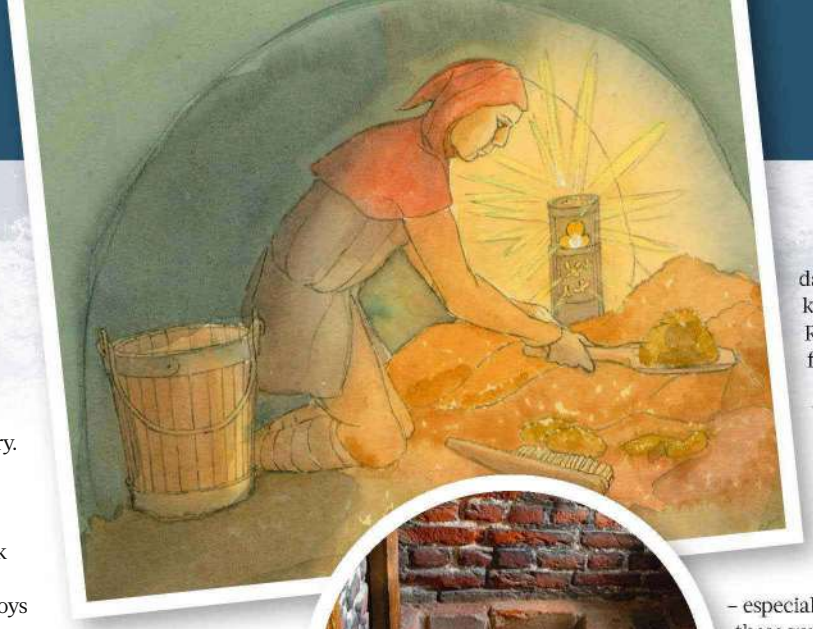
household. Whenever her husband was away on military campaign or circulating among their other residences, she would be entrusted to oversee the castle's management, as demonstrated by the likes of Joan de Valence at Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire, during the 13th century.

NOT ALL FUN AND GAMES

Evidence of children's toys, from spinning tops, dolls and balls to mock bows and arrows, prove that castles weren't only home to adults. Noble boys were trained in archery and learned to fence as they reached maturity. Moreover, the children of wealthy families were often employed as pages and damsels and schooled in good manners before attending to the lord's family.

Larger castles could employ upwards of 50 domestic staff, who were overseen by a steward. He managed all financial and legal matters relating to the castle's estates – keeping a close eye on rents, or fines issued by the lord's court. By the 12th century, aristocratic households also included lots of clerks, literate in both Latin and French, to deal with such administrative matters, and also to perform religious services, educate the lord's children and distribute alms to the poor.

Servants tended to the needs of grander residents, ensuring the castle's daily life functioned without a hitch. Though their employment was often a drudgery – everything from turning the spit over an oppressively hot kitchen fire to mucking out the castle's stables – the life of a servant was far preferable to that of a peasant. Dressed in colourful liveries (uniforms) that denoted their lord's heraldry and working long hours for little pay, servants could at least look forward to regular meals and a relatively comfortable place to rest their heads at night, which could be literally anywhere within the castle.



DOING THE DIRTY WORK

Garderobes – toilets made from planks of wood with holes in them – were almost always situated along a castle's northern wall. They would overhang a moat or ditch, into which human waste would drop and accumulate. Lords' chambers often contained their own privy, while some castles, like Goodrich, hosted more communal amenities. One of the best-paid employees in a castle was the so-called gong farmer, the individual whose task it was to clear out the cesspit. As well as being extremely unpleasant, this was a dangerous profession, as a man known only as 'Richard the Raker' found out in 1325 after falling into one and drowning.

Although castles must have been largely cold and damp places, particularly in winter, most of their communal spaces featured large open fires. Every castle boasted a great hall, which acted as the focal point for all significant occasions – especially feasting and revelry. Often these were heated by a roaring hearth in the centre of the room, with a louvre in the roof above to allow the smoke to escape. Tapestries hung along the walls would have also provided some moderate insulation from the elements.

Entertainment was a key component of everyday castle life and revolved around mealtimes. An early lunch might encompass as many as 10 courses, followed by dancing and music from troubadours and minstrels. Epic poetry, regaling the lord and his entourage with tales of romantic derring-do, dramatic play-acting and slapstick courtesy of a jester, were all popular pursuits. Knights could hone their martial skills in tournaments, and hunting parties stalked prey across the castle's estate.

Religious festivals were also major fixtures in the castle's annual calendar and would often result in the number of its inhabitants swelling at certain points in the year. At Christmas, seasonal foliage such as holly and ivy would adorn the interiors, while a Yule log would burn in the great hall. The lord would treat his knights to festive hospitality, while the domestic staff celebrated with a largesse of food, drink and clothing.

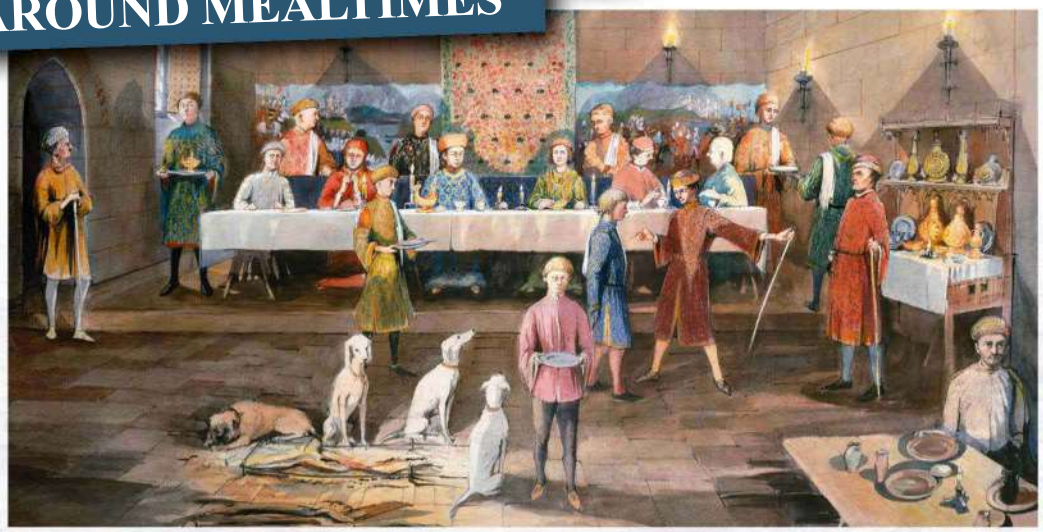
WORDS: DANNY BIRD

TOP: **Being a gong farmer was stinky, dangerous work – but at least it was well paid**

ABOVE: **Basic toilets known as garderobes were usually sited over moats or ditches**

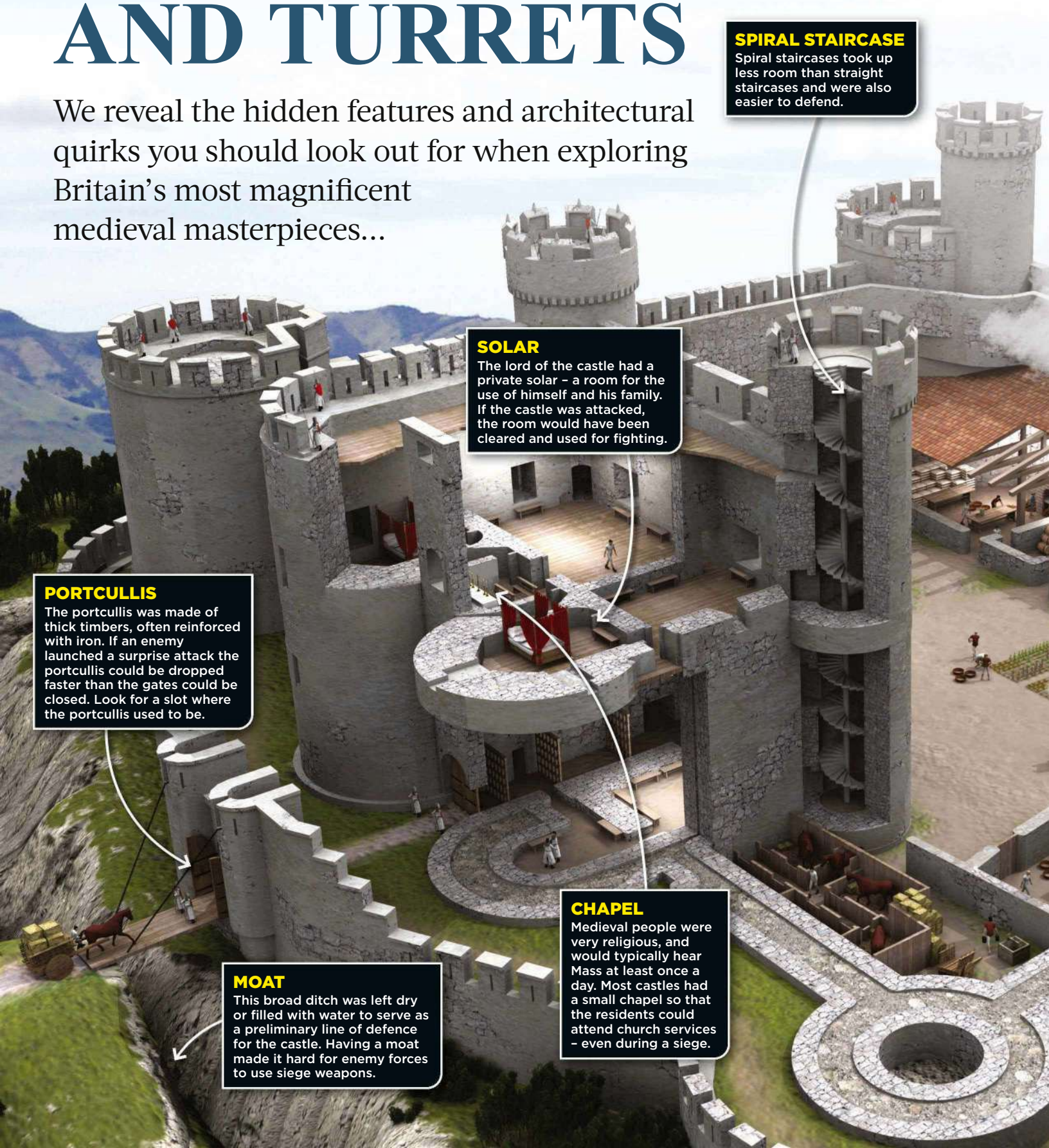
BELOW: **The great hall was the heart of the castle, where the household ate and entertained**

"ENTERTAINMENT WAS A KEY COMPONENT OF EVERYDAY CASTLE LIFE AND REVOLVED AROUND MEALTIMES"



TIMBERS, TOWERS AND TURRETS

We reveal the hidden features and architectural quirks you should look out for when exploring Britain's most magnificent medieval masterpieces...


SPIRAL STAIRCASE
Spiral staircases took up less room than straight staircases and were also easier to defend.
SOLAR
The lord of the castle had a private solar – a room for the use of himself and his family. If the castle was attacked, the room would have been cleared and used for fighting.
PORTCULLIS
The portcullis was made of thick timbers, often reinforced with iron. If an enemy launched a surprise attack the portcullis could be dropped faster than the gates could be closed. Look for a slot where the portcullis used to be.
CHAPEL
Medieval people were very religious, and would typically hear Mass at least once a day. Most castles had a small chapel so that the residents could attend church services – even during a siege.
MOAT
This broad ditch was left dry or filled with water to serve as a preliminary line of defence for the castle. Having a moat made it hard for enemy forces to use siege weapons.

A spiral staircase inside one of Dover Castle's towers. Its tight, twisting design means it takes up less room than a conventional staircase

DID YOU KNOW?

THE NOT-SO GREAT ESCAPE

In May 1648, Charles I was caught trying to escape his imprisonment at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. Having applied nitric acid to a metal window bar, he was discovered sawing at it with a hacksaw.

WALL CONSTRUCTION
Castle walls were built of two types of stone. They were faced with expensive stones cut to be smooth. Behind these dressed stones were much cheaper, roughly shaped stones held together by mortar.

ROOF
Roofs would normally have a shallow pitch, so they were not taller than the surrounding walls. Today, most castle roofs are missing.

GREAT HALL
The heart of the castle. This was where most people ate, worked and even slept. All important meetings would have taken place here.

KITCHEN
Kitchens had brick or stone chimneys to reduce the risk of fire. They were usually some distance from any timber buildings, so that if a fire began it would not be able to spread.

OUTER WALL
The low outer wall was designed to slow down an attack on the main walls. Attackers had to capture the outer wall before they could use siege towers or battering rams against the main walls.

IN NUMBERS

Six fascinating stats about British castles

172

The length, in days, of Henry III's 1266 siege of Kenilworth Castle – the longest in English medieval history

>300

The number of fireplaces at Windsor Castle – the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world

47

The years it took to build Caernarfon Castle, Wales – although it was never completely finished

c500

The number of castles built in England and Wales during the reign of William the Conqueror (1066–87)

>22,000

The amount, in tonnes, of soil used to create the motte of a medieval castle built at Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire

2–2.5

The depth, in metres, of the defensive moat that surrounds Bodiam Castle in East Sussex

GETTY IMAGES X1, SOL90 IMAGES X1

GREAT BRITISH CASTLES

Looking for a castle to visit? You could do no better than to add these spectacular structures to your checklist

HARLECH

GWYNEDD

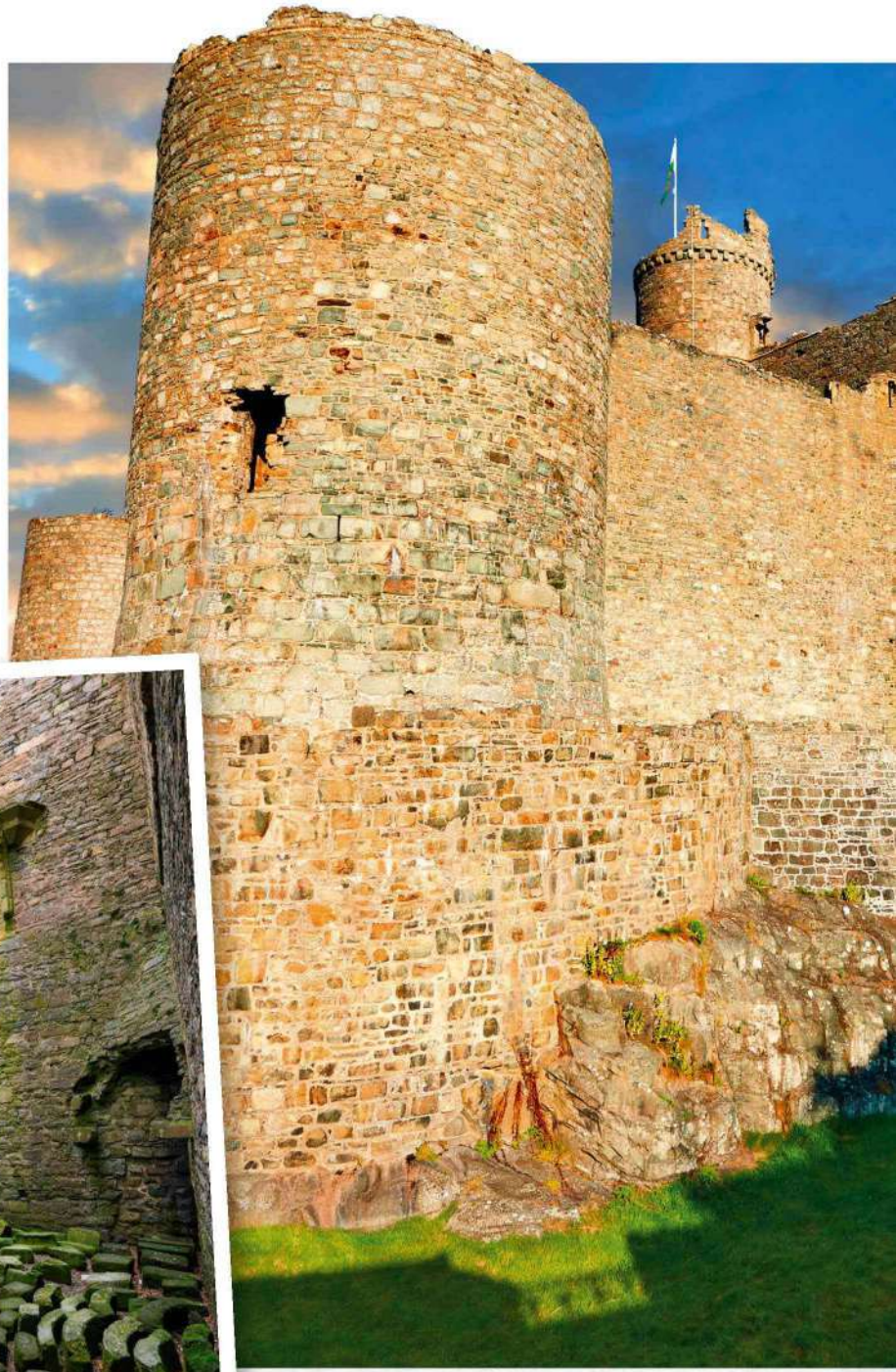
A Welsh landmark and the site of bravery in the face of terrible odds

The song 'Men of Harlech' is as synonymous with Welsh culture as 'Bread of Heaven' and 'The Green, Green Grass of Home'. And at the heart of this rousing regimental march is a tale of heroism and defiance – and one spectacular castle.

Sitting on a rocky crag in Gwynedd, Harlech is arguably the most spectacular of all the fortifications that Edward I built in north Wales during his campaign to subdue the country. The castle took just six years to build (in the 1280s) and is a classic example of the 'walls within walls' design.

The Men of Harlech referred to in the famous song are believed to be the Lancastrian defenders who, in the 1460s, held out against a massive Yorkist army during the Wars of the Roses before succumbing to overwhelming odds, the defenders (in the words of one poet) "shattered by the sound of guns".

Yet this was far from the first time that the castle had come under attack. In 1404, Owain Glyndŵr, iconic leader of the resistance to the English occupation of Wales, captured Harlech and made it his main residence and court. This was too much for the English to endure, and in 1409 Henry of Monmouth (later to be Henry V) laid siege to the castle. This time, Harlech's defenders were forced into surrender by a punishing bombardment. The castle fell under English control again but Glyndŵr escaped to fight another day.



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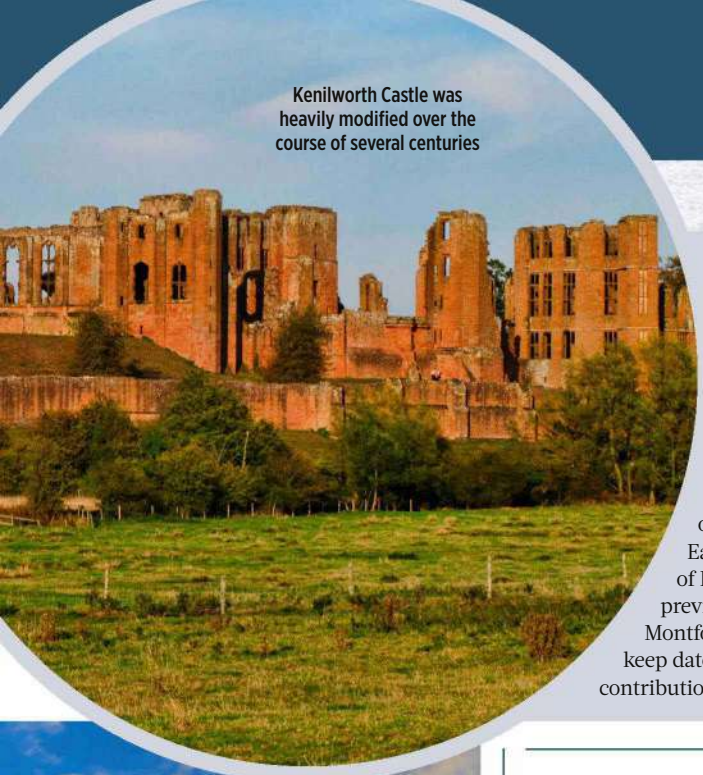


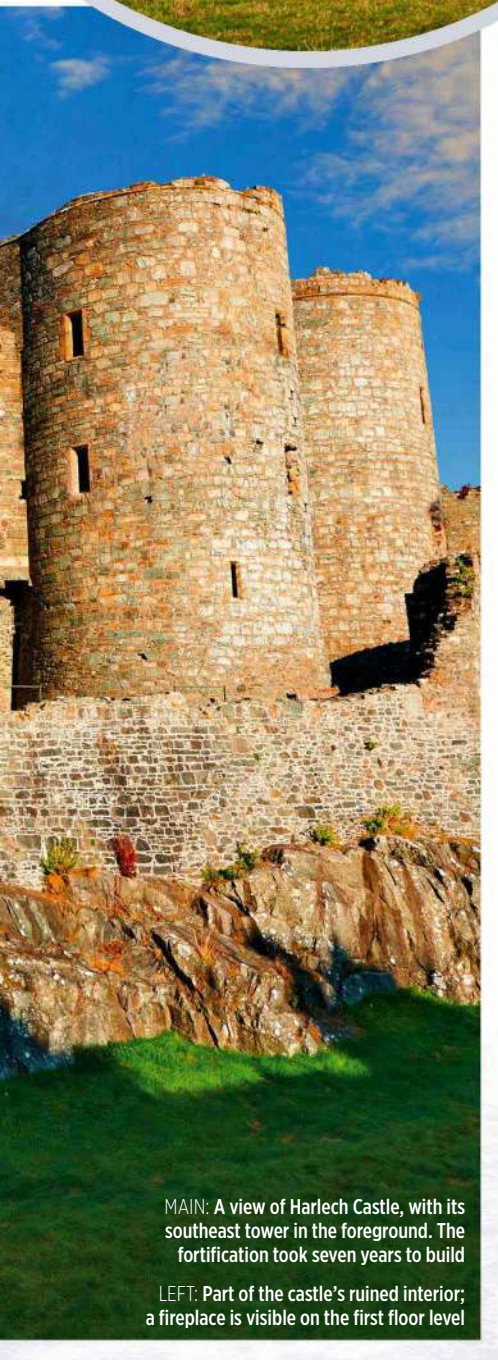
Kenilworth Castle was heavily modified over the course of several centuries

KENILWORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Later owned by Elizabeth I's favourite, the fortress was once at the centre of a huge rebellion

Kenilworth Castle, which stands sentinel over the rolling Warwickshire countryside, was once owned by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the famed admirer of Elizabeth I. Yet it was under a previous Earl of Leicester, Simon de Montfort, that the castle, whose massive keep dates to the 1120s, made its greatest contribution to English history.

It was from Kenilworth that de Montfort planned a huge rebellion against Henry III, lighting the touch paper for the Second Barons' War (1264–67). De Montfort briefly got the better of the king before being killed at the battle of Evesham in 1265. Yet that didn't bring Kenilworth's role in the conflict to an end. For it was to the castle that de Montfort's defeated allies retreated for one last – and doomed – stand against Henry's rampant forces.



MAIN: A view of Harlech Castle, with its southeast tower in the foreground. The fortification took seven years to build

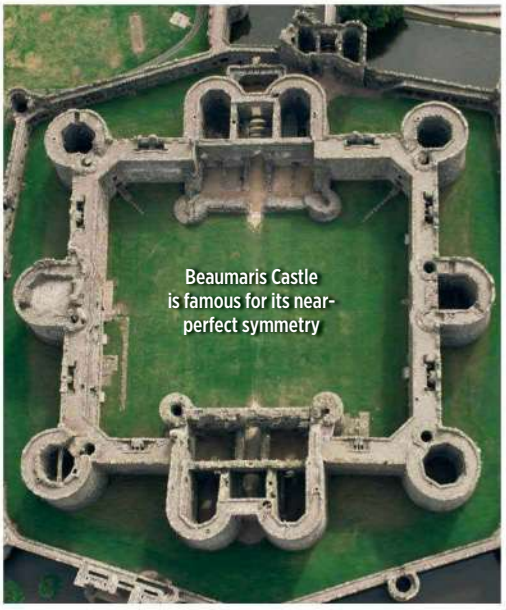
LEFT: Part of the castle's ruined interior; a fireplace is visible on the first floor level

BEAUMARIS GWYNEDD

A true masterpiece of castle design on the Isle of Anglesey

Beaumaris has been described as Britain's "most perfect example of symmetrical concentric planning". And a visit to the castle, sited on the eastern shores of Anglesey, soon reveals why. Beaumaris was the last of the royal strongholds created by Edward I, and the lessons that the king and his architect James of St George learned at the likes of Harlech and Conwy were applied to stunning effect, producing four concentric rings of impressive defences, a moat and a dock.

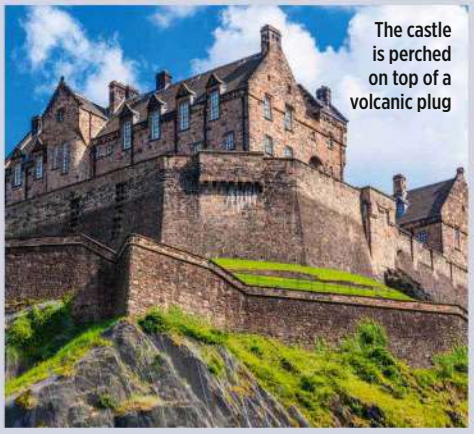
Like a number of castles, Beaumaris was besieged by parliamentarian forces during the Civil Wars. Unlike other castles, however, it survived relatively unscathed following its fall, in 1646.



Beaumaris Castle is famous for its near-perfect symmetry

EDINBURGH CITY OF EDINBURGH

The nucleus of Scottish power



The castle is perched on top of a volcanic plug

Sitting atop a mighty rock at the heart of Scotland's capital, Edinburgh Castle has played a starring role in Scottish history since Iron Age people recognised its strategic value and built a fort here. Like Stirling (*see page 47*), many of Edinburgh Castle's most celebrated episodes took place during the Scottish Wars of Independence (1296–1357), perhaps none more dramatic than when Thomas Randolph, nephew of Scotland's king Robert Bruce, seized the fortification from its occupiers following an audacious night raid in 1314.

The popular tourist destination now exhibits some of the most priceless artefacts in all of Scottish history, from the Scottish crown jewels to the iconic Stone of Destiny, an ancient symbol of the nation's monarchy.

LINCOLN

LINCOLNSHIRE

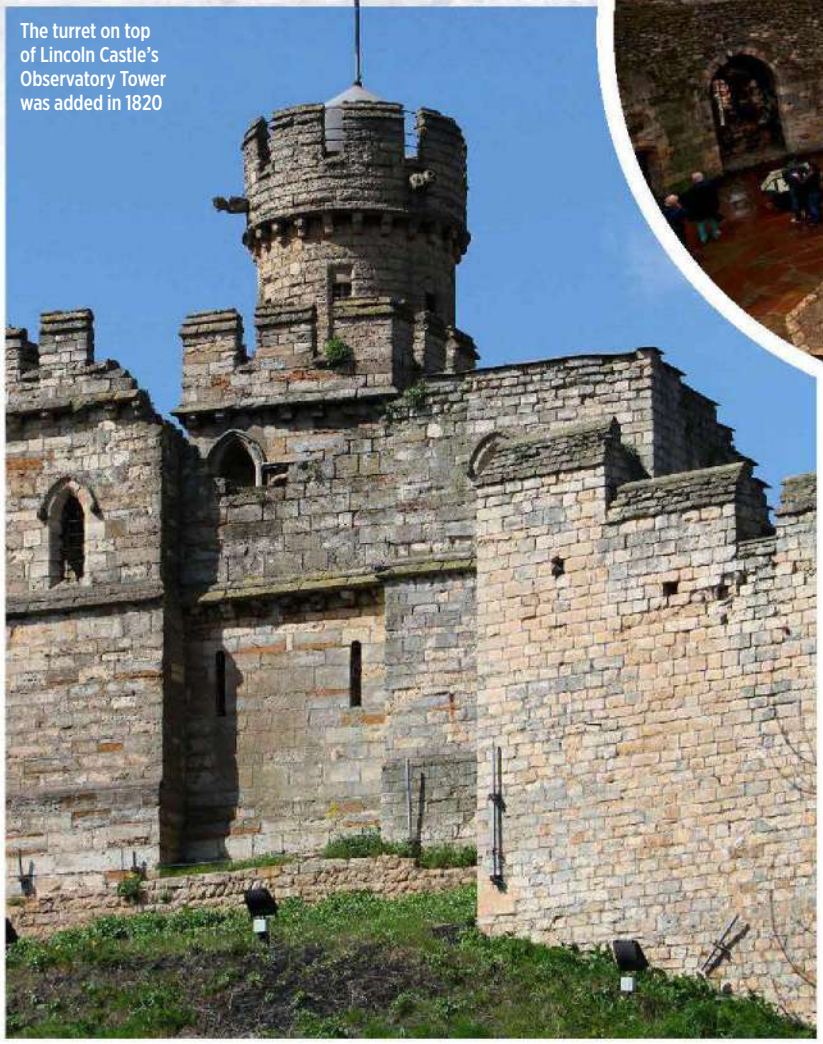
The castle that changed the course of English history – not once, but twice

Some of England's most celebrated castles have witnessed little conflict during their centuries-long existences. Lincoln certainly isn't one of them. The fortification – which is one of only two castles in Britain to boast two mottes (the other being Lewes in East Sussex) – was constructed by William the Conqueror two years after defeating Harold Godwinson at the battle of Hastings. William sought to put down an uprising in the Midlands and the North, and Lincoln was one of a chain of castles that the Conqueror built to subdue his recalcitrant new subjects.

It was in the mid-12th and early 13th centuries, however, that Lincoln found itself at the very centre of national events, staging two battles that changed the course of English history. The first occurred at the height of the vicious struggle for the English throne between King Stephen and Empress Matilda, now known as the Anarchy. It was while besieging the castle in February 1141 that Stephen's forces were put to flight by an army loyal to Matilda. Stephen was captured and thrown in prison – and Matilda, for a short time at least, was the most powerful figure in England.

Lincoln Castle was engulfed by conflict again in May 1217 during the First Barons' War, a conflict that saw Prince Louis of France (later Louis VIII) invade England with the support of a number of rebellious English barons. Louis had at some point held the upper hand, yet his hopes of victory were dashed at Lincoln when his troops were defeated and sent into retreat by an army loyal to Henry III.

Fighting on such a scale hasn't returned to Lincoln over the past 800 years, but the castle remains a hive of activity today, remaining in use as a court.



The turret on top of Lincoln Castle's Observatory Tower was added in 1820

CAERPHILLY

GWENT

The design marvel that almost never happened

Caerphilly Castle is one of the greatest landmarks in south Wales. Boasting colossal walls, towers and gatehouses – and occupying a central island surrounded by artificial lakes – it looks as majestic today as it did in the Middle Ages. Yet it was very nearly never built. The English noble Gilbert de Clare's attempt to construct a castle in the southeast corner of Wales in the late 13th century was scotched by his powerful Welsh rival Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, who burned the site in 1270.

Llywelyn's power declined, however, with the rise of English king Edward I, and Caerphilly would evolve into a palatial residence, one whose concentric design became an exemplar for other castles across Wales.

A view of the castle's outer west gatehouse

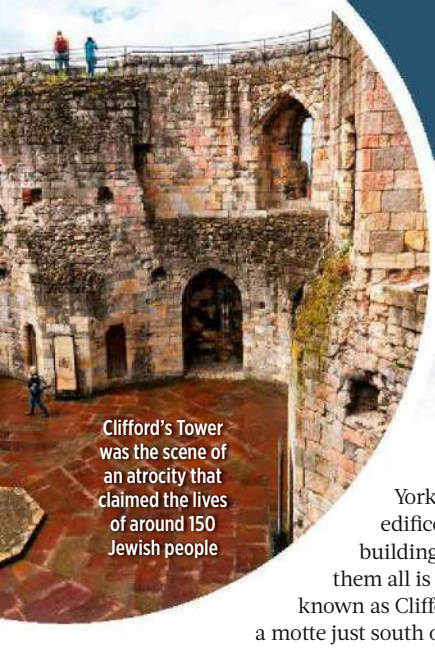
CORFE DORSET

There's a dark history hiding among this West Country castle's impressive ruins

The ruins of Corfe Castle dominate the landscape

Corfe Castle's majestic ruins – overlooking the tranquil village of the same name – belie a bleak, often violent history. The fortification rose out of the countryside during the reign of William the Conqueror. Yet it was under William's descendant King John that the castle witnessed its darkest hour. Here, in 1203, the monarch ordered 22 knights to be starved to death in its dungeons.

Corfe would remain one of southern England's most impressive castles until the mid-17th century, when it became the site of two sieges during the Civil Wars. A royalist garrison headed by Lady Bankes, wife of the Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas, defied parliamentarian forces until 1646. Yet when the resistance collapsed, the castle was partially destroyed on the orders of parliament, leaving the ruins that welcome visitors today.



Clifford's Tower was the scene of an atrocity that claimed the lives of around 150 Jewish people

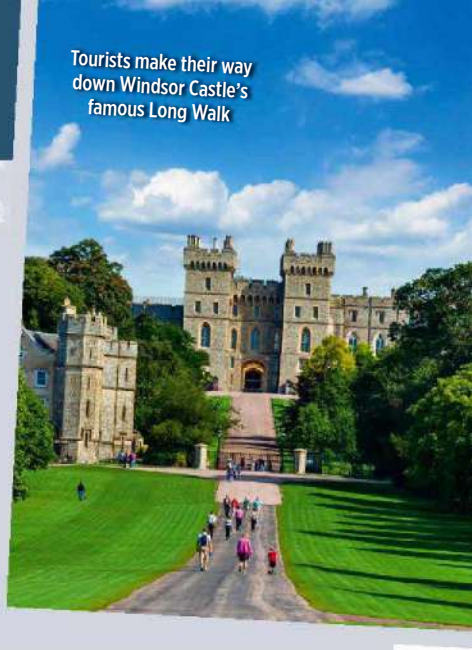
YORK

NORTH YORKS

Witness to rebellion and a massacre

York Castle isn't a single edifice but a complex of buildings. The most famous of them all is the castle keep, now better known as Clifford's Tower, standing atop a motte just south of the city centre. It's an imposing edifice – and, in all truth, it had to be, for York Castle endured a tempestuous early history.

The first castle, a basic wooden motte and bailey fortification, was captured and partially destroyed during fighting between York's Norman occupiers and a Viking army supported by local rebels in 1069. Yet the castle's darkest hour arrived in 1189, when local Jews were murdered or took their own lives after fleeing into the keep to escape an anti-Semitic mob.



Tourists make their way down Windsor Castle's famous Long Walk

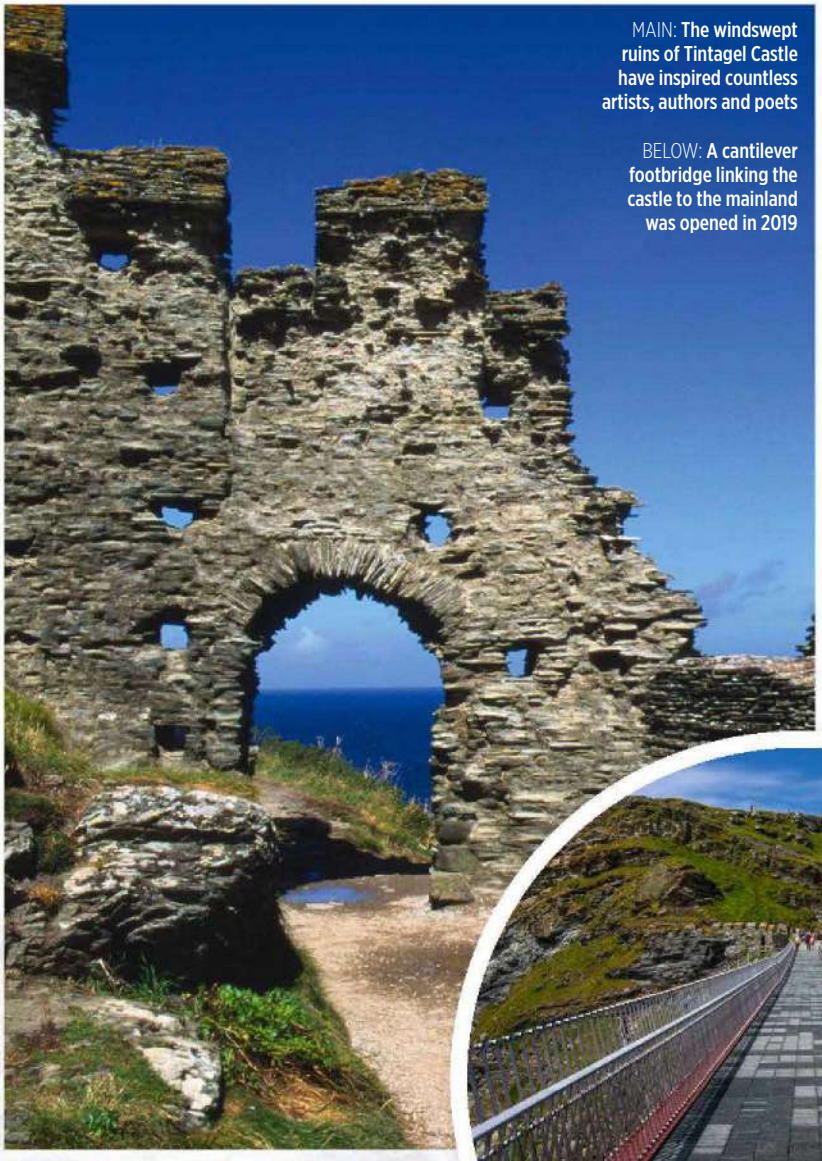
WINDSOR

BERKSHIRE

A home of kings and queens for more than 900 years

Windsor is arguably the most famous castle in Britain. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were married here in 2018, Queen Elizabeth II was buried here and King Charles III is often resident here.

In fact, as the longest-occupied palace in Europe, Windsor has barely been out of the news since it was built to project Norman dominance along the Thames Valley at the end of the 11th century. Since Henry I moved in at the start of the 12th century, successive monarchs have added their own grand design statements over the past millennium. Yet it was built first and foremost as a fortification, as was proven by its ability to withstand a siege during the First Barons' War.



MAIN: **The windswept ruins of Tintagel Castle have inspired countless artists, authors and poets**

BELOW: **A cantilever footbridge linking the castle to the mainland was opened in 2019**

TINTAGEL

CORNWALL

The picturesque Cornish castle with connections to the Arthurian legend

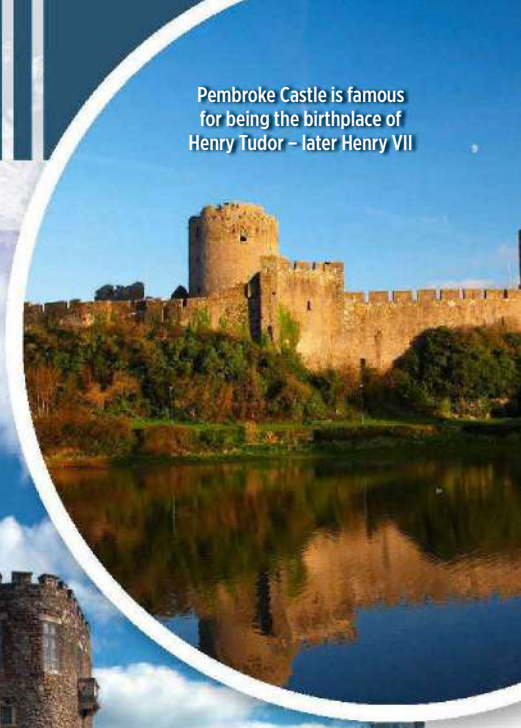
Some castles are bigger. Some easier to reach. Others less impacted by the ravages of time. Yet when it comes to sheer mystique, few can compare with Tintagel. And much of that magic stems from the castle's associations with one of the great legendary figures of British history: King Arthur.

Arthur was conceived at Tintagel – the product of a romantic liaison involving Uther Pendragon and the beautiful Igraine. That, at least, is what the 12th-century cleric Geoffrey of Monmouth tell us in his *Historia Regum Britanniae* ('History of the Kings of Britain').

Geoffrey's account of Arthur's conception and subsequent life may owe more to his vivid imagination than historical fact, but it certainly stuck. In fact, Tintagel has been intimately connected to the story of Arthur ever since. And that connection may have played a role in Richard, Earl of Cornwall's decision to build a castle on this windswept headland in the 1230s. The remains of much of Richard's building project – including two courtyards, a curtain wall and a gate tower – can still be seen today, despite 800 years of unforgiving Cornish weather.

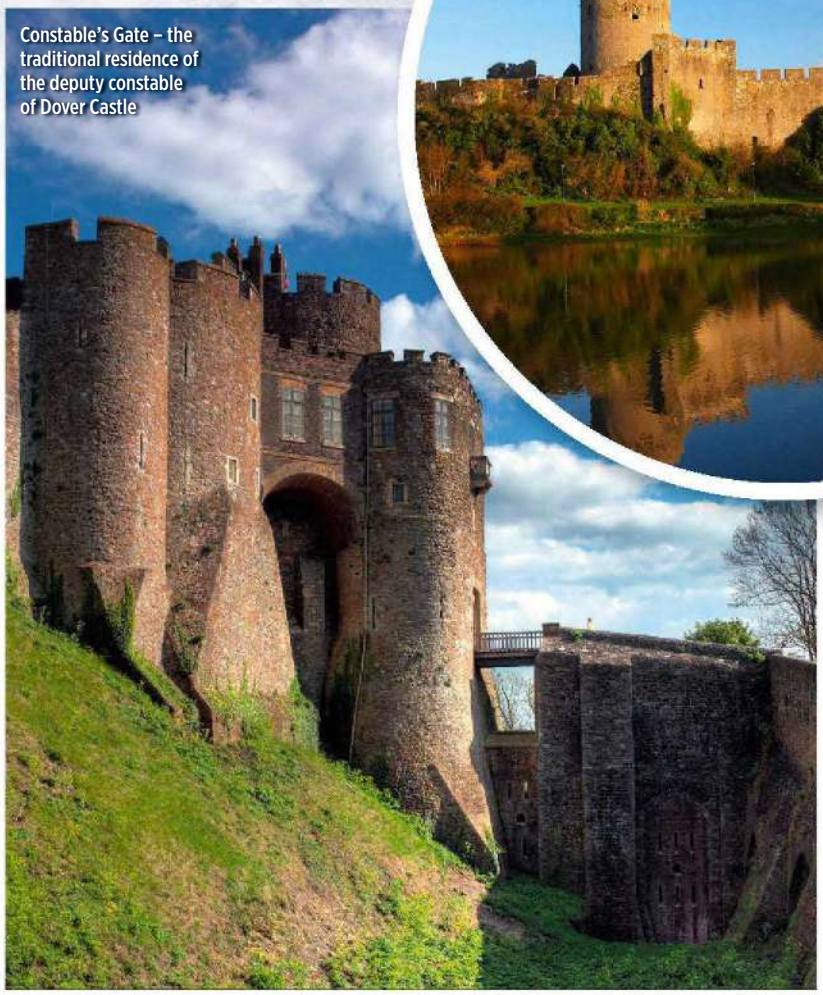
Tintagel slowly went into decline (and ruin) after Richard's death but it never lost its power to fire the imagination. That much became obvious in the 18th and 19th centuries when artists such as Alfred Tennyson began romanticising the castle once more via paintings and prose. Today, courtesy of a new footbridge connecting the mainland to the headland, it's never been easier to experience that romance for yourself.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3


Pembroke Castle is famous for being the birthplace of Henry Tudor – later Henry VII

DOVER KENT

The imposing 'key to England' that has often been at the centre of national events


Constable's Gate – the traditional residence of the deputy constable of Dover Castle

Standing sentinel over the shortest crossing point between Kent and continental Europe, Dover was dubbed 'the key to England' by a 13th-century chronicler. This site was, however, home to fortifications long before the kingdom of England came into being. In fact, archaeology suggests that a fort might have stood here from at least the first century BC. What is certain is that the Romans made use of the location, building (among other things) an octagonal lighthouse – later converted into a bell tower – that still stands today.

William the Conqueror built a fortress at Dover shortly after the battle of Hastings, yet it was during the rule of Henry II (1154–89) that the castle received a makeover. In the last decade of his reign Henry constructed Dover's mighty great tower, or keep, surrounded by a curtain wall studded with towers.

Dover was now one of the most technically advanced castles in the whole of Europe, a sophistication it exhibited on a number of occasions in the Middle Ages. It resisted determined sieges waged by Prince Louis of France in 1216 and 1217 during the First Barons' War. A siege during the Second Barons' War (1264–67) eventually ended in a negotiated settlement.

Dover Castle has witnessed less violence since the Middle Ages yet it has remained very much at the centre of national events. Henry VIII hosted the Holy Roman Emperor here in 1520, underground barracks were built here in the Napoleonic Wars, and during World War I the castle became the headquarters of a garrison comprising 16,000 troops. In the Cold War, it was even earmarked as a potential seat of government in the event of a nuclear attack.

PORTCHESTER HAMPSHIRE

Standing guard over the English Channel since Roman times

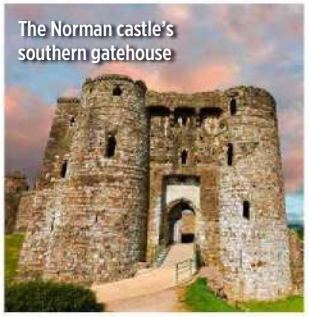
One of the Roman-era towers at Portchester Castle, which overlooks Portsmouth Harbour

While many of Britain's castles are the product of Norman craftsmanship, Porchester has a much longer history, stretching back to Roman Britain.

Recognising the strategic importance of a location that overlooks Portsmouth's natural harbour, in the third century the legions built what remains the best preserved Roman fort north of the Alps.

The Anglo-Saxons were the next to move in, occupying the remains of the Roman site from around the fifth century. But it was under the Normans that the castle's impressive keep appeared. For centuries Portchester played a starring role in England's tempestuous relationship with France, falling to a French invasion force in 1216 and acting as the launchpad for English campaigns across the Channel.

KIDWELLY CARMARTHENSHIRE


The Norman castle's southern gatehouse

The centre of a tug-of-war between Norman and Welsh warlords

A network of castles are dotted along the coast of south Wales – evidence of centuries of conflict between the native princes and Norman lords. Few are more impressive than Kidwelly, rising above the River Gwendraeth in rural Carmarthenshire, and few changed hands more times.

Kidwelly was built as a Norman 'ringwork' castle in the early 12th century and soon came under attack from a series of Welsh princes, including the Lord Rhys, who captured it in 1159. The castle passed back into the hands of Anglo-Norman lords before falling to Llewelyn the Great, bane of King John and Henry III, in 1231.

Kidwelly has enjoyed a quieter existence since the end of the Anglo-Welsh wars. In fact its greatest claim to fame in the past century is, perhaps, appearing in the opening scene of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

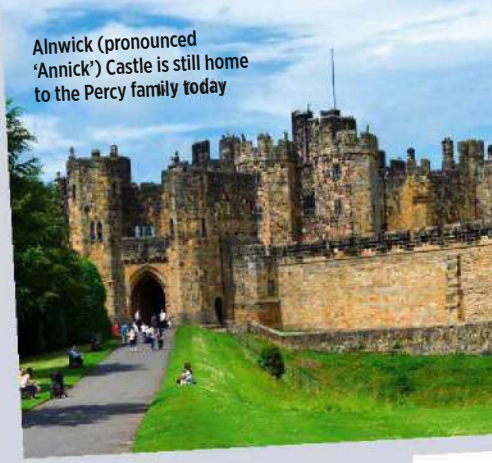
PEMBROKE

PEMBROKESHIRE

The cradle of the very first Tudor monarch

The 28th of January 1457 was a turning point in British history. Not that anyone knew it at the time. On that winter's day in the heart of the 15th century, a teenaged noblewoman named Margaret Beaufort gave birth to a son who would grow up to defeat Richard III in battle at Bosworth. The son's name was Henry Tudor and (as Henry VII) he would go on to found one of England's most celebrated royal dynasties.

Pembroke Castle had occupied a strategic site in southwest Wales since the late 11th century. A century later it came into the possession of the medieval period's most famed knight, William Marshal. It was Marshal who ordered the building of the great round keep that dominates the castle today.



Alnwick (pronounced 'Annick') Castle is still home to the Percy family today

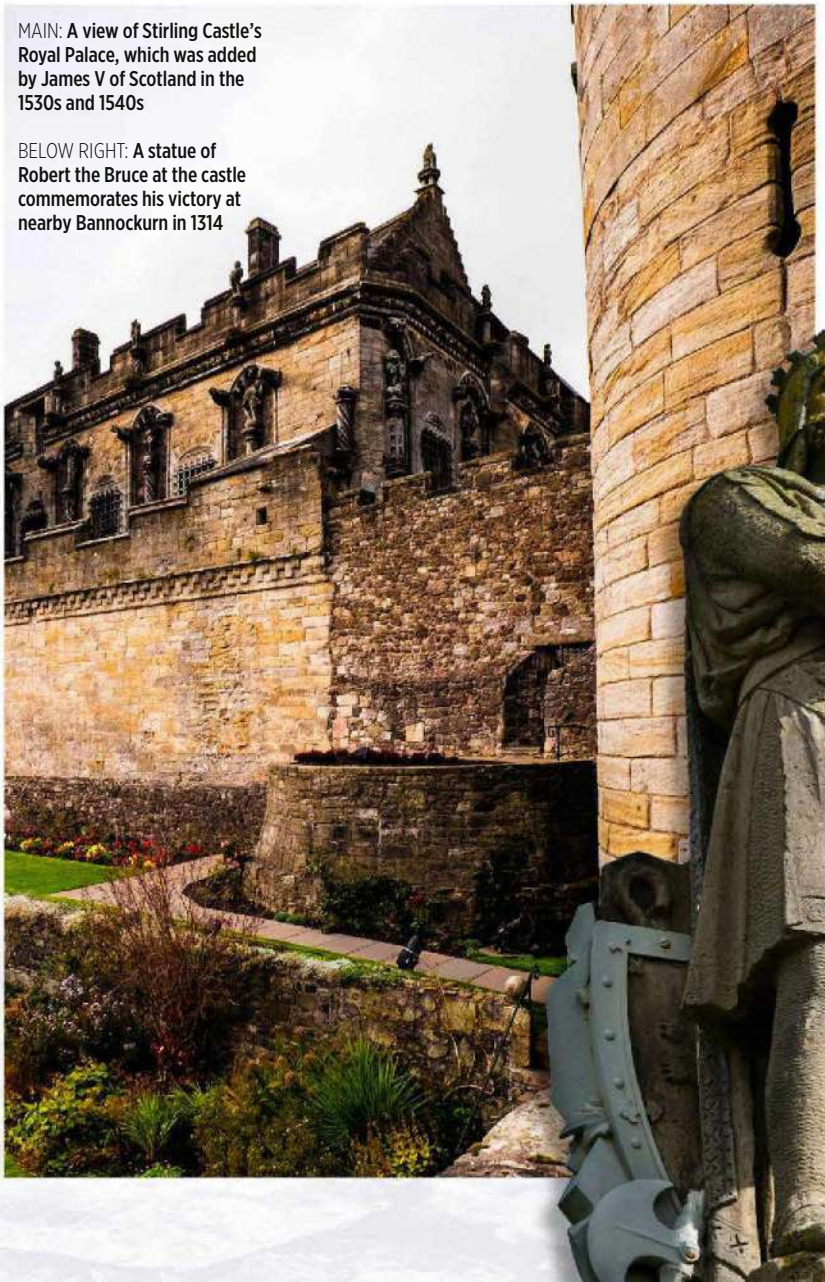
ALNWICK

NORTHUMBERLAND

An impressive English castle prized by the Scots

Nestled in Northumberland, in England's northeastern corner, Alnwick Castle found itself in the front line of the recurring conflicts that erupted between England and Scotland across the Middle Ages. Just four decades after it was constructed by the Norman noble Ivo de Vescy at the end of the 11th century, the fortification was captured by Scottish king David I. Some 40 years later, the Scots were back again, this time under William the Lion, who besieged the castle twice in the 1170s (before being captured by English forces outside the town).

The year 1309 was a landmark one in Alnwick's long history, for it was then that the castle came into the possession of the powerful Percy family, who have lived here for much of the past 700 years. It was probably at the end of the 15th century that the castle's impressive barbican was built, helping make Alnwick the second largest inhabited castle in the UK.



MAIN: **A view of Stirling Castle's Royal Palace, which was added by James V of Scotland in the 1530s and 1540s**

BELOW RIGHT: **A statue of Robert the Bruce at the castle commemorates his victory at nearby Bannockburn in 1314**

STIRLING

STIRLINGSHIRE

A rallying point during the brutal Wars of Scottish Independence

The 13th and 14th centuries saw England and Scotland involved in a titanic battle for supremacy (now known as the Wars of Scottish Independence) and Stirling Castle was invariably at the heart of the action.

Guarding the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling appears to have been an important royal centre from at least the early 1100s. Yet it was from the end of the 13th century, when Edward I of England launched an invasion of Scotland, that the castle gained its iconic status.

The English occupied the castle at the end of the 1290s yet were dislodged following William Wallace's famous victory over the invaders at nearby Stirling Bridge. The castle also played a pivotal role in the story of another heavyweight of Scottish history, Robert the Bruce. In 1314, while the castle was again in English hands, a force was sent north of the border to help ward off a Scottish siege. However, that army was soundly defeated by Bruce's forces at Bannockburn, in sight of the castle walls.

Stirling would swap hands on a number of occasions until 1342, when it permanently fell under Scottish rule. From then on, it became the preferred residence of a string of Scottish rulers, including James IV, the renaissance monarch who spent a great deal of money trying to make the castle fit for an enlightened European king. Mary, Queen of Scots was crowned in Stirling Castle in 1543 and it was here that her son, James VI, was baptised before going on to reverse centuries of Anglo Scottish enmity by uniting the two crowns.

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X6

MEET THE EXPERT

DR MARC MORRIS is the author of several critically acclaimed books on medieval history, including *Castle: A History of the Buildings that Shaped Medieval Britain* (Windmill, 2012). To hear him discuss British castles on the *HistoryExtra* podcast, scan the QR code shown above or visit *historyextra.com/podcast*

DR MARC MORRIS ON THE APPEAL OF CASTLES TODAY

There is no more direct connection to the lost world of the Middle Ages than a visit to a castle

Why are castles so enduringly popular? What attracts people of all ages to visit them in such large numbers?

The fundamental reason, I think, is because castles function as both fortresses and homes. This makes them unlike the buildings that came before and after. A Roman fort might excite military history enthusiasts; a stately home might delight devotees of Georgian or Victorian decor. Only a castle, however, combines the defensive and the domestic on a single site.

Their dual purpose means that castles had to be ingenious, which is another reason for their appeal. Outside, they present a range of devices to thwart unwelcome visitors: drawbridges, portcullises, machicolations and murder-holes. Inside, they have elaborate suites of rooms: chambers, halls, kitchens and chapels, all cleverly connected by staircases and passageways. Their external walls must be thick and strong, but the interior rooms must be well-lit and luxurious. Every castle represents a cunningly contrived solution to this complicated architectural balancing act.

Castles are also romantic. Not just because, in some cases, they have fallen into ivy-covered ruin, but because they were originally constructed to delight royal and aristocratic patrons, raised on a diet of Arthurian literature. If they seemed picturesque to 18th-century painters, it was because they were designed that way in the first place. Harlech Castle, grafted onto a rocky eminence, high above the sea, once gleamed in the distance, its walls covered in whitewash. Bodiam Castle, surrounded by its mirror of a moat, still looks like something out of fairy tale. These buildings were always intended to stir the emotions of those who beheld them.

Lastly, castles appeal to us because they act as portals to the past. To walk through their gatehouses and into their courtyards is to enter the lived environment of some of the most famous characters in history. At Dover you can stand in a room where Henry II slept; at Hever a hall where Anne Boleyn would have dined. By exploring these buildings, we gain a greater understanding of the lives (and sometimes the deaths) of their owners. You can read about the imperial ambition of Edward I, but you cannot fully appreciate it until you have seen the giant fortress-palace he constructed at Caernarfon.

And, of course, castles illuminate not just the lives of their owners, but those of the vast penumbra of people who made up medieval and early modern households – the cooks, clerks, stewards, squires, chamberlains, ushers, huntsmen, skivvies and stable-lads. We can imagine the trepidation of those brought into the castle to stand trial, and perhaps led out again to a place of execution. We can walk the walls and be thankful that we will not have to defend or assault them like the unfortunate soldiery of previous centuries. There is no more direct connection to the lost world of the Middle Ages than a visit to castle.

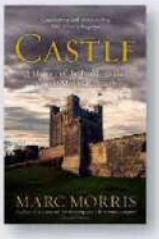
Castles remain popular destinations for tourists because they act as "portals to the past", says Dr Marc Morris

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

GET HOOKED

Learn even more about British castles with our pick of key resources

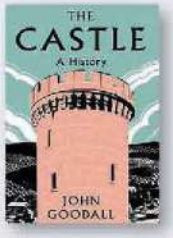
BOOKS



Castle: A History of the Buildings that Shaped Medieval Britain

By Dr Marc Morris (Windmill, 2012)

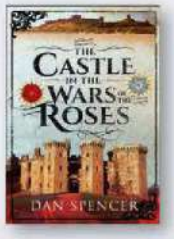
Beginning with their introduction in the 11th century and ending with their widespread abandonment in the 17th, Dr Marc Morris delves into the history of Britain's most famous castles, as well as several lesser-known examples.



The Castle: A History

By Dr John Goodall (Yale University Press, 2022)

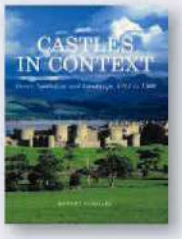
Dr John Goodall tells the story of the British castle across the span of a millennium, weaving in the voices and viewpoints of figures as diverse as PG Wodehouse, Sir Walter Scott and the 14th-century 'Gawain Poet'.



The Castle in the Wars of the Roses

By Dr Dan Spencer (Pen & Sword, 2020)

Using a wide range of architectural, financial and administrative sources, Dr Dan Spencer examines the place of castles within the 15th-century Wars of the Roses, highlighting their importance as fortresses and military bases.

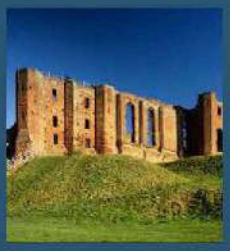


Castles in Context: Power, Symbolism and Landscape

By Prof Robert Liddiard (Windgather Press, 2005)

This clearly written and accessible book seeks to dismantle some of the myths that have persisted about the true origins and purpose of castles, suggesting that their aesthetic beauty was by no means a happy accident.

ON THE BBC

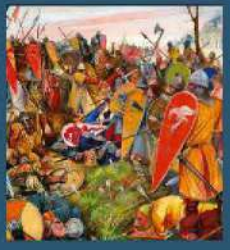


BBC RADIO 3

◀ The Essay: The Fall and Rise of the British Castle

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b050s1lp

A selection of writers reflect on the continuing power of castles, which still dominate large sections of the British landscape.

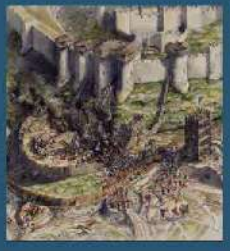


BBC RADIO 4

◀ In Our Time: The Norman Yoke

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009q7zm

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the 'Norman Yoke' – the idea that the battle of Hastings sparked years of cruel oppression for the Anglo-Saxons by a Norman ruling class.



BBC RADIO 4

◀ The Long View: Cyber-attacks and the Great Siege of Dover Castle

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08yq8g4

Jonathan Freedland explores the Great Siege of Dover Castle in 1216, when the French used new techniques to try and seize the English throne.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on castle history, scan the QR code on the right, or visit *historyextra.com*

▶ British castles: everything you wanted to know

Dr Marc Morris answers listener questions about Britain's castle history.
Listen at *bit.ly/2AwQZui*

▶ Castles: from mighty fortresses to fantastical palaces

Dr John Goodall explores the ever-changing nature of the castle.
Listen at *bit.ly/3YQBHpS*

▶ Dover Castle: Britain's first line of defence

Julian Humphrys investigates Kent's historic hilltop stronghold.
Read at *bit.ly/3ZHmAQH*

WATCH

Secrets of the Castle

(streaming on Amazon Prime)

Historian Ruth Goodman and archaeologists Peter Ginn and Tom Pinfold turn back the clock to learn the skills of medieval castle builders.

Secrets of Great British Castles

(streaming on Netflix)

Dan Jones explores the history behind the UK's legendary castles – from Carrickfergus Castle in County Antrim to the Tower of London.

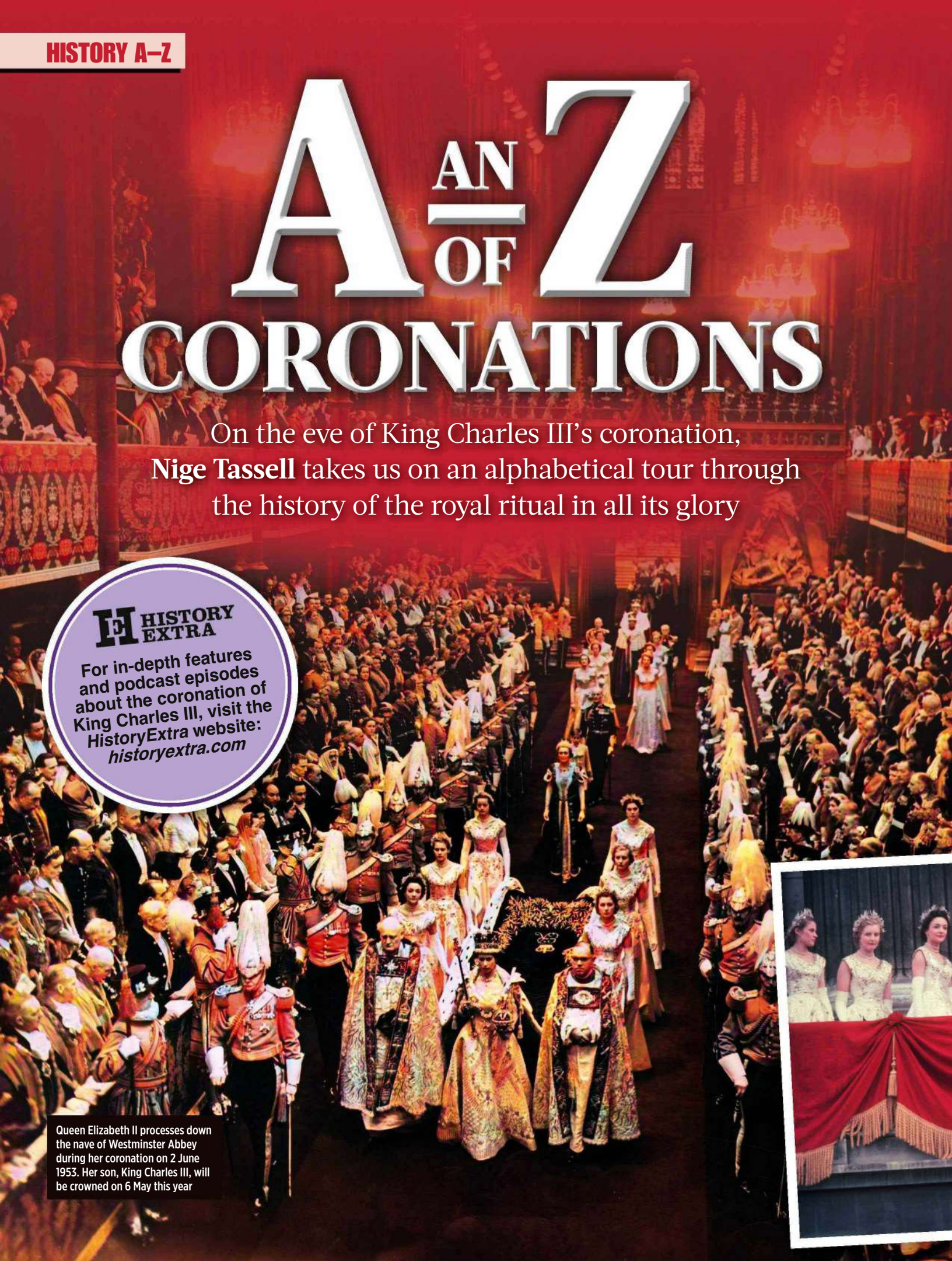
GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1, BBC X1

A AN OF Z CORONATIONS

On the eve of King Charles III's coronation, **Nige Tassell** takes us on an alphabetical tour through the history of the royal ritual in all its glory

HISTORY EXTRA

For in-depth features and podcast episodes about the coronation of King Charles III, visit the HistoryExtra website: *historyextra.com*



Queen Elizabeth II processes down the nave of Westminster Abbey during her coronation on 2 June 1953. Her son, King Charles III, will be crowned on 6 May this year

ABOVE: **Archbishop William Sancroft refused to swear allegiance to William III and Mary II**

MAIN: **Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell famously turned down the title of king**

A is for... *Archbishop of Canterbury*

▶ Almost all English coronations since 1066 have been conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the most senior member of the Church of England. While it is arguably the pinnacle of any archbishop's service, not all have been dutiful and willing to carry out the high-prestige role. In 1689, the then archbishop, William Sancroft, did not officiate at the joint coronation of William III and Mary II as he failed to acknowledge the legitimacy of their ascension to the throne after the removal of Mary's father, James VII and II, in the Glorious Revolution. The Bishop of London officiated instead.

B is for... *balcony appearance*

▼ When the pomp of the ceremony has finished, and the coronation procession undertaken back to Buckingham Palace from Westminster Abbey, another aspect of modern coronations takes place: an appearance from the newly crowned monarch on the balcony of the palace. The first such appearance was in 1902 when Edward VII and Queen Alexandra stepped out to receive the acclaim of the crowds gathered down below. Since then, a balcony appearance has been a fixture of post-coronation celebrations, and in 1953 was accompanied by a fly-past of massed planes – something that Edward, his coronation a year before the Wright brothers first took to the skies, wasn't treated to.

C is for... *Cromwell*

▲ "I cannot undertake this government with the title of a king, and this is mine answer to this great and weighty business." In May 1657, Oliver Cromwell – who had signed the death warrant of Charles I eight years earlier – turned down Parliament's offer of the crown. He was, though, ceremonially reinstalled as lord protector at Westminster Hall one month later. Although he wasn't crowned, the occasion shared many of the trappings of a coronation: Cromwell wore a purple robe lined with ermine and sat on the Coronation Chair, which had been transported from Westminster Abbey next door.

D is for... *Dunstan*

If there is one chief architect of the coronation ceremony that is still largely used for the crowning of British monarchs today, it is Dunstan, the 10th-century archbishop of Canterbury later canonised as Saint Dunstan. Presiding over the coronation of King Edgar in Bath in 973, he oversaw all aspects of the ceremony. Dunstan's service emphasised the union between church and monarch, and raised the stature of the occasion to mirror the consecration ceremonies of priests. The coronation was commemorated in verse in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, while another chronicler, John of Worcester, described it as a service of "great pomp and ceremony".

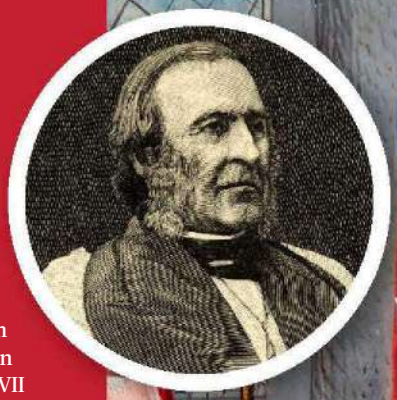
GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

Queen Elizabeth II waves from the Buckingham Palace balcony, accompanied by her family and maids of honour

E is for... *Edward VIII*

▶ In January 1936, Edward, Prince of Wales, succeeded his father, George V, as king of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, as well as emperor of India. He would never be crowned, though. In December that year, with his coronation still five months away, he abdicated the throne following disquiet about his relationship with the divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. Edward didn't attend the subsequent coronation of his brother, George VI, nor that of his niece, Elizabeth II, in 1953. He and Simpson watched Elizabeth's coronation on television at their home in Paris.

Edward VIII attempts to hide his face from the cameras after his shock abdication in 1936



Archbishop Frederick Temple almost derailed Edward VII's big day with his blunders

F is for... *fiasco*

▶ High-profile and complex occasions that they are, coronations have the potential to go wrong – and in full public view. In 1902, the coronation of Queen Victoria's successor Edward VII (rescheduled after the king suffered a near-fatal bout of peritonitis) didn't go particularly smoothly. Officiating the ceremony was the octogenarian archbishop of Canterbury, Frederick Temple, who by then was almost blind. Despite having the service's prayers reproduced on large cue cards, he still stumbled over his words. When it eventually came to crowning Edward, not only did the archbishop nearly drop the crown, but he also managed to place it on the monarch's head back to front.

G is for... *guests*

The coronation of a British monarch with the longest guest-list was that of Elizabeth II in 1953. A total of 8,251 dignitaries crammed into Westminster Abbey to observe the ceremony, representing 129 countries and territories from across the globe. One of the most conspicuous royal guests was Sālote Tupou III, the long-serving queen of Tonga who stood at nearly two metres tall and was described by Princess Astrid of Sweden as "everyone's darling". The forthcoming coronation of Charles III will be notably less well-attended, with only a quarter the number of guests who attended his mother's service taking their seats inside the abbey.

Henry VI inherited the thrones of both England and France before the age of one, but he wasn't crowned in either kingdom until several years later

"HENRY VI HAD YET TO REACH HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY WHEN HE BECAME KING"

H is for... *honours list*

An impending British coronation is preceded by the issuing of a coronation honours list that confers orders and honours on notable members of society. It's a tradition that's been in place for 200 years, since George IV further endowed his already lavish coronation in 1821 with bestowing the titles. As with royal birthday honours, the list is drawn up by the prime minister of the day – and not always to the monarch's complete satisfaction. Indeed, George IV blocked some of the recommendations of the Earl of Liverpool after growing disgruntled at the prime minister's assumption that the king would merely rubber-stamp the nominations without scrutiny.

I is for... *infant*

▲ At the age of 74, Charles III will be the oldest British monarch to be the subject of a coronation, a scenario that's in marked contrast to the experience of Henry VI. Henry had yet to reach his first birthday when he succeeded both his father, Henry V, as English king and his maternal grandfather, Charles VI, as French monarch. It wasn't until he was seven years old that he had a coronation at Westminster Abbey, and two years later, just after turning 10, he was crowned in Paris in an attempt to delegitimise the claim to the French throne of Charles VII.

J is for... *jewels*

The current version of the Imperial State Crown was made for George VI in 1937

▲ The coronation of the monarch is, of course, further illuminated by the Crown Jewels worn and held by the new king or queen. Aside from the Sovereign's Orb, which is placed in the monarch's right hand during the service, and the Sovereign's Sceptre, the – erm – crowning glory is the headwear. St Edward's Crown was made in 1661 for the coronation of Charles II after the original crown was melted down after the abolition of the monarchy 12 years earlier. But it's not the only crown worn on the day. The monarch leaves Westminster Abbey with the Imperial State Crown on their head instead. Lighter than St Edward's Crown, it is still encrusted with 2,901 precious stones.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

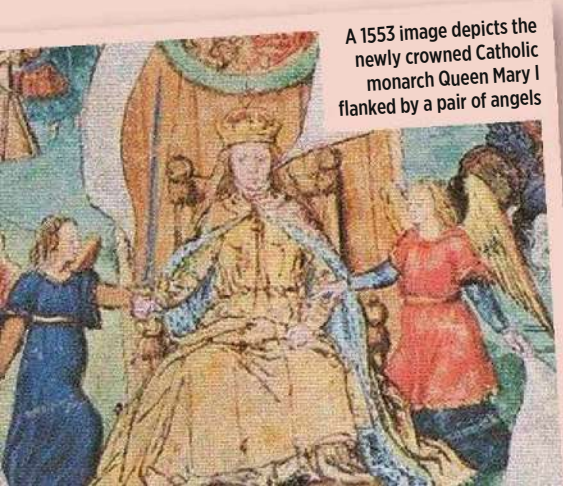
Misuzulu ka Zwelithini formally received the Zulu crown in 2022

K is for... *King Misuzulu*

▲ When he was crowned Zulu king in 2022, Misuzulu ka Zwelithini was the first to enjoy a coronation in South Africa's post-apartheid era. He succeeded his father, King Goodwill Zwelithini, who had been the longest-serving Zulu king in history, having taken to the throne back in 1971. The then white-minority government had expected Goodwill to wear western clothing at his coronation, to which he complied, albeit with the inclusion of a leopard-skin sash. By contrast, in the age of the republic, King Misuzulu attended his own coronation in exclusively traditional Zulu clothing.

N is for... *new era*

▼ The crowning of Mary I in 1553 was the last English coronation to be held as an exclusively Catholic service. When her half-sister Elizabeth succeeded her five years later, the younger sibling's coronation signalled her intent to forge ahead with the Protestant Reformation that Mary's reign had attempted to reverse. Elizabeth not only insisted that the service be conducted in English as well as Latin, but she also sidestepped her participation in the Mass, with one eye-witness account reporting that she instead retired to an adjacent curtained-off area.



A 1553 image depicts the newly crowned Catholic monarch Queen Mary I flanked by a pair of angels

L is for... *locked out*

When a married British king is crowned, he is always accompanied by his queen consort. Well, almost always. In 1821, George IV didn't just choose to go solo at his coronation, but he actively barred his queen consort, Caroline of Brunswick, from the ceremony, having her locked out of Westminster Abbey. The couple had formally separated a year after their wedding in 1795 and relations between them were so acrimonious that George didn't even inform Caroline of the death of their only daughter, Princess Charlotte, in childbirth. On the day of the coronation three and a half years later, Caroline attempted to enter the abbey via various entrances, but was rebuffed each time. She died less than three weeks later.

Queen consorts are also anointed, but only on the head. Here, Edward VII's wife, Alexandra, prepares for the ritual in 1902

O is for... *oil*

▲ The holy oil used to anoint a new British monarch (*see 'U' on page 54*) is delivered by way of the 12th-century Coronation Spoon, the oldest item in the Coronation Regalia. The new king or queen is anointed on three different parts of the body: the hands, the breast and the head. The oil that is scheduled to be used at Charles III's coronation has been both prepared and blessed in Jerusalem. Made from pressed olives, it has been infused with rose, jasmine, amber, sesame and cinnamon among other ingredients.

M is for... *meals*

▼ Between 1189 and 1821, it was customary for a coronation banquet to be held after the ceremony, usually in nearby Westminster Hall. The newly crowned monarch would, of course, be the guest of honour, with large numbers of dignitaries also attending the feast, but William IV abandoned the tradition in 1830, believing it to be an unjustified expenditure, and it has never been held since. However, food would enjoy a connection with a coronation when, in 1953, coronation chicken – a dish of chicken in a creamy, curry-flavoured sauce – was created by two London chefs in honour of Elizabeth II's crowning.

Coronation chicken was invented by chefs Constance Spry and Rosemary Hume to celebrate the crowning of Queen Elizabeth II

P is for... *Penny Coronation*

William IV was a very different monarch to his predecessor, his brother George IV. When the latter enjoyed the extravagance that came with his role, while also largely confining himself to Windsor Castle, William was more a man of the people. George's coronation in 1821 had cost the tidy sum of £240,000. When his younger sibling inherited the throne nine years later, he saw no need for a coronation, let alone an expensive affair. William was ultimately persuaded to go ahead with the ceremony, although he ensured that it cost only an eighth of that of George's. Traditionalists threatened to boycott the day, mocking the king's frugal ways, referring to it with a scoff as 'the Half Crown-nation' – or the Penny Coronation.

Q is for... *queen consorts*

▶ While the husbands of new queens aren't crowned (and, indeed, usually have to make do with un-kingly titles like prince consort), wives of new kings are bestowed with the suitable headwear – as well as being given the official title of queen consort while being styled as queen. Queen Camilla will be the eighth female consort since the formation of the United Kingdom in 1707. For the coronation, she has opted to wear a modified version of the crown worn by Queen Mary in 1911, rather than that of the last queen consort, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, which contains the controversial Koh-i-Noor diamond, of which India continues to claim ownership.

King Charles III and the Queen Consort greet well-wishers following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022

R is for... *robes*

Several robes are worn by a British monarch at their coronation. First there's the *colobium sindonis*, a plain, sleeveless tunic that represents the humility of its wearer before God. After the monarch is anointed, the tunic is placed over their existing clothing. Then, over the tunic, the distinctly more showy *supertunica* is worn, a full-length golden robe made of silk and believed to be influenced by Byzantine clothing. A robe of purple velvet is then worn after the investiture and crowning.

The sovereign's gold silk *supertunica*. This iteration was made for King George V in 1911

"THE TUNIC REPRESENTS ITS WEARER'S HUMILITY BEFORE GOD"

GETTY IMAGES X8

S is for... *stone*

▼ Just as symbolic an element of a British coronation as the jewellery and regalia is something less glamorous: a block of sandstone known as the Coronation Stone. Its place in Scottish history is sacred, with its use in the coronation of monarchs north of the border dating back many centuries. For King Charles III's coronation, it will be placed underneath King Edward's Chair, as per tradition (*as seen here*).

T is for... *television*

▶ The BBC Television Service was only six months old when it made its first outside broadcast beyond the environs of its Alexandra Palace headquarters – at the 1937 coronation of George VI, where it deployed just three cameras to record the royal procession. Sixteen years later, the corporation used 21 cameras at the coronation of Elizabeth II. It was the new queen who, against the counsel of many of those around her, permitted the live broadcast. As a result, more than 20 million Britons gathered around television screens to watch the event from close quarters.

U is for... *unction*

Unction is the process by which a new monarch is anointed using holy oil (*see 'O' on page 53*). In the case of a British monarch, it occurs prior to both the investiture and the crowning, and emphasises their spiritual status in the eyes of God. Although television cameras were present inside Westminster Abbey for Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, her anointment was concealed from public view beneath a gold cloth canopy. It has been reported that, for Charles III's anointment, the canopy will have a transparent roof, thus the unction will be witnessed for the first time by guests and the huge television audience alike.

The 1937 coronation of King George VI was the subject of the BBC's first outside TV broadcast

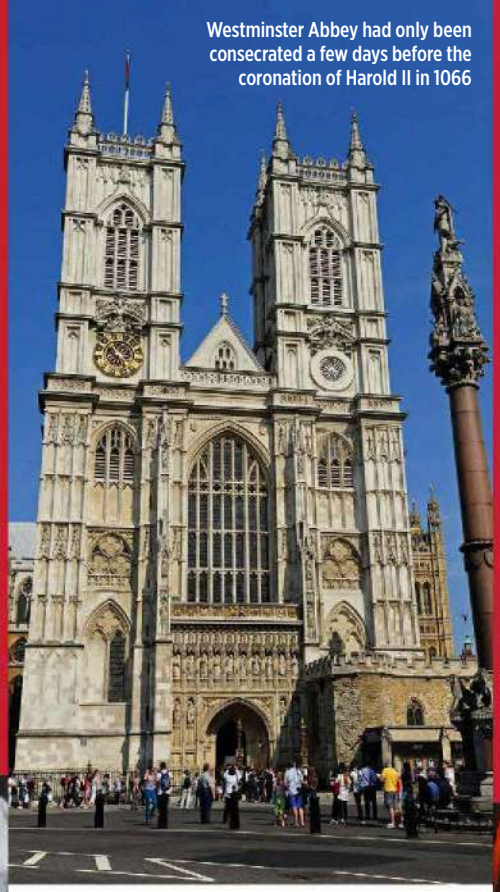
V is for... *Victoria*

▼ To say that the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838 was lacking in both preparation and rehearsal is something of an understatement. The ceremony was littered with problems and mistakes, including the coronation ring being placed on the wrong finger of the queen, causing her plenty of pain, and one of the more senior attendees, Lord Rolle, falling down some steps. The most embarrassing moment of all was when Victoria, having been informed by one of the bishops that the ceremony had finished, left to get changed out of her coronation attire, only to be retrieved for the remainder of the service. Her future prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli, noted that the participants "were always in doubt as to what came next".

A bored-looking Prince Charles stands with The Queen Mother at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation

Y is for... *young attendees*

▲ When the four-year-old Prince Charles attended his mother's coronation in 1953, he was the first-ever heir to the throne to be present at the crowning of their mother. The young prince had received a special hand-painted invitation to the event, but that was arguably as exciting as it got for him. Photographs captured on the day show a very visibly bored boy enduring, not enjoying, the three-hour-long ceremony.



Westminster Abbey had only been consecrated a few days before the coronation of Harold II in 1066

W is for... *Westminster Abbey*

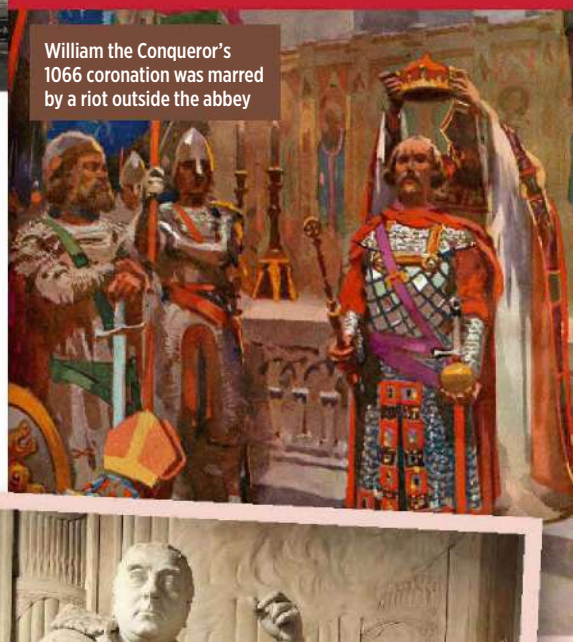
▲ Coronations of almost all English monarchs have been held at Westminster Abbey, with Harold II probably the first king to be crowned there, in 1066. Built by Edward the Confessor on the site of a Benedictine monastery, the original abbey was in use until the 13th century when Henry III had it rebuilt in a Gothic style. Henry's ambitions for the abbey were that it would be the permanent location of all future coronations. More than 700 years later, it still is.

Z is for... *Zadok the Priest*

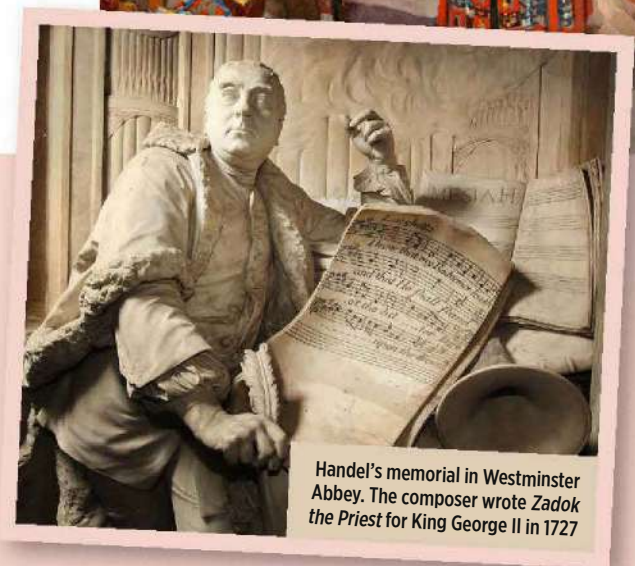
▶ In 1727, the year he became a naturalised British subject, German-born composer George Frideric Handel was commissioned to write an anthem for the coronation of George II. The result was *Zadok the Priest*, a work that has been sung at every British coronation since. Its lyrics derive from the Book of Kings in the Bible and are an account of King Solomon being anointed by the titular priest. Accordingly, the line "God save the King! Long live the King! God save the King!" pertains to Solomon and not to the monarch actually being crowned on that day. Accordingly, the words are not changed when the ceremony is for a new female monarch.

X is for... *Xmas Day*

▼ One of the more notable coronations of an English monarch took place on Christmas Day in 1066. Held fewer than three months after William the Conqueror's victory at Hastings, it wasn't the usual, joy-filled occasion that subsequent coronations would be. A nervous atmosphere fell on Westminster Abbey, with English soldiers attending alongside their Norman counterparts so soon after hostilities had ended. The atmosphere was the least of it. When the crowd cheered their approval of the new king, the noise was misinterpreted by William's men outside as an attempt on his life. They set surrounding buildings on fire and a riot broke out, which forced the congregation to flee. The clergy and the new king completed the service in an otherwise empty abbey.



William the Conqueror's 1066 coronation was marred by a riot outside the abbey

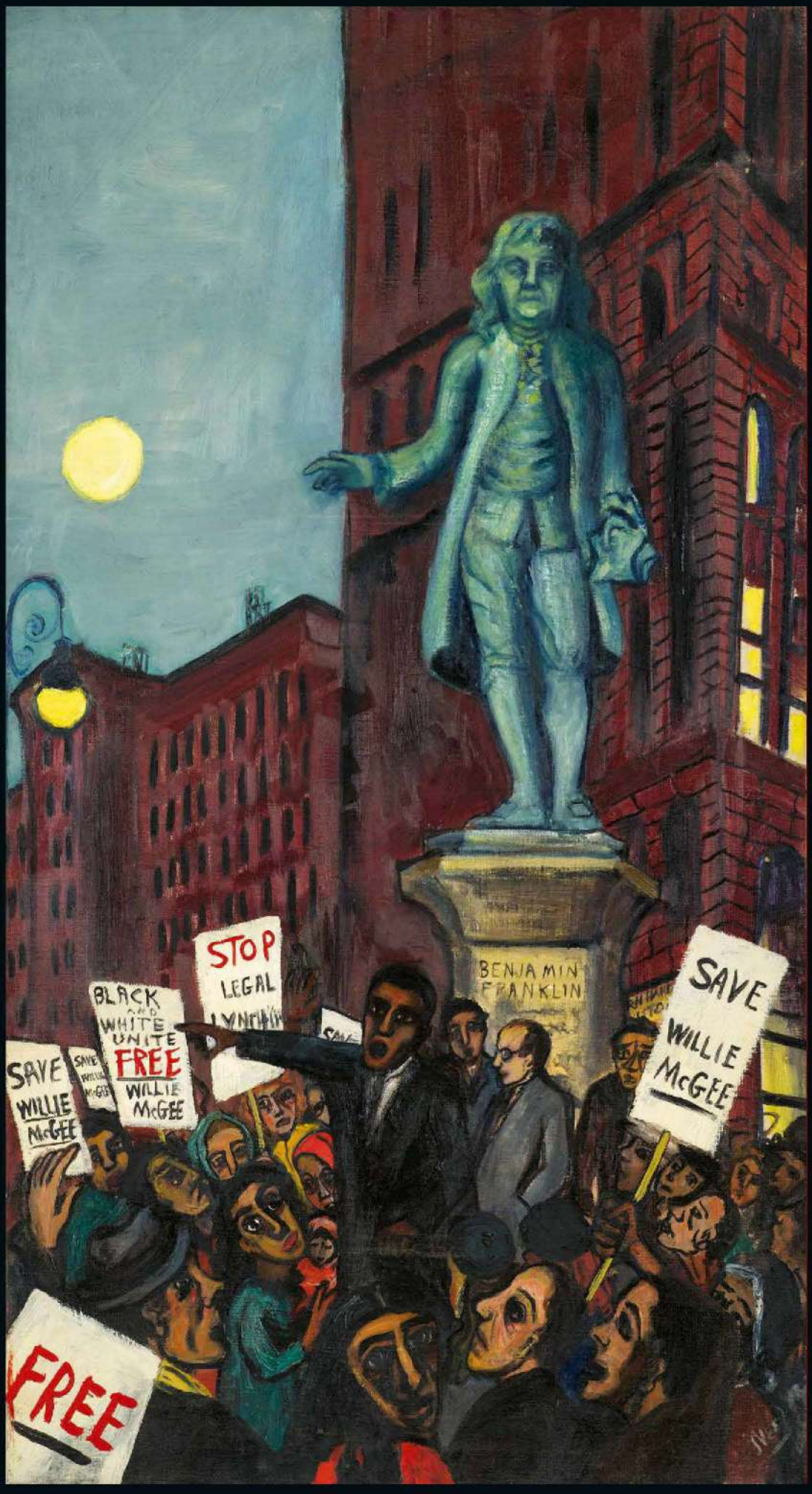


Handel's memorial in Westminster Abbey. The composer wrote *Zadok the Priest* for King George II in 1727

GET HOOKED

READ AND LISTEN

For more on the upcoming coronation of King Charles III, visit *historyextra.com*. Turn to page 73 for our guide to the best TV and radio coverage.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WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

Alice Neel's bold, unapologetic works bared the souls of men, women and children living on the fringes of society

Save Willie McGee

by Alice Neel, c1950

In November 1945, Willie McGee, a young black grocery truck driver from Mississippi, was arrested on charges of raping a white woman. Between 1945 and 1951, McGee saw three circuit-court trials, several reversals and four failed attempts at a full review by the US Supreme Court before his eventual execution in May 1951, at the age of 35.

The case captured both national and international interest, with many campaigning for McGee's release, believing him to be an innocent victim of both racial prejudice and refusals by those in the Jim Crow South (the name given to the predominantly Southern system of racial segregation in the US) to accept an interracial extramarital affair. More than 10,000 letters were sent to President Truman demanding freedom for McGee, and several high-profile names, including Albert Einstein, Josephine Baker and William Faulkner, joined the calls for clemency. Another voice passionately proclaiming McGee's innocence belonged to Alice Neel, an artist living in New York's Spanish Harlem.

"Neel was a committed political artist who used her paintings as a way of speaking out," says Eleanor Nairne, curator of a new exhibition on Alice Neel at the Barbican Art Gallery in London. "She had joined the Communist Party in the early 1930s, and since McGee's defence was paid for and managed by the Civil Rights Congress [the New York-based civil rights arm of the Communist Party USA], Neel would have been aware of, and even involved in, the creation of flyers and the campaigning around this case. More than 20 years later, in 1970, she actually painted Bella Abzug, the lead counsel for Willie McGee.

"Neel was someone who regularly attended pickets and rallies," continues Nairne, "and we know she was present at the protest depicted in this work. One of her earlier paintings, *Magistrates Court (The Courtroom Scene)* was created from her own memory of being arrested following a protest."

VOICE OF THE UNDERGROUND

Neel had moved to New York after the collapse of her marriage to Cuban artist Carlos Enríquez, and her nervous breakdown and subsequent hospitalisation that had followed the death of their 11-month-old daughter. Enríquez took their second daughter to live with his family in Havana, and Neel moved to Greenwich Village where she became "court painter of the underground", devoting herself to creating candid, sometimes shocking, portraits of individuals not often captured on canvas – from queer couples and pregnant women, to local children and black intellectuals.

In 1933, with the Great Depression casting its pall over American life, Roosevelt launched his New Deal programme – a set of domestic policies designed to counter poverty and unemployment. The programme included the Public Works of Art Project and, later, the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA); Neel signed up to both and received a weekly wage of $26.88, submitting a painting every six weeks in return. For the first time in US history, painting was recognised as wage-earning labour and, as part of her work with the WPA, Neel began painting street scenes, recording adversity in the city in her own unique style.

"This was a time of racial segregation in the US; an era when homosexuality was illegal and prosecutable," concludes Nairne. "But Neel believed in people. She believed that everyone had an equal right to live well, and she felt that this right was being violated. Her decision to paint the men, women and children she chose to paint was very much against the tide."

"One of the reasons I painted was to catch life as it goes by," explained Neel in later life, "right hot off the griddle… the vitality is taken out of real living." ⊙

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

1. STATUE

The statue of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin depicted here still stands across from New York's City Hall. New York was one of many cities across the US that saw organised mass demonstrations in support of Willie McGee.

2. PLACARDS

An arc of white placards with bold red writing call for McGee's release. Despite protests like this, McGee was executed on 8 May 1951. In a last note to his wife, written the night before his death, he told her: "Tell the people to keep on fighting."

GET HOOKED

Alice Neel: Hot Off The Griddle – featuring *Save Willie McGee* – is on show at the Barbican Art Gallery in London until 21 May 2023. See the gallery website for more information and details of how to visit: *barbican.org.uk*

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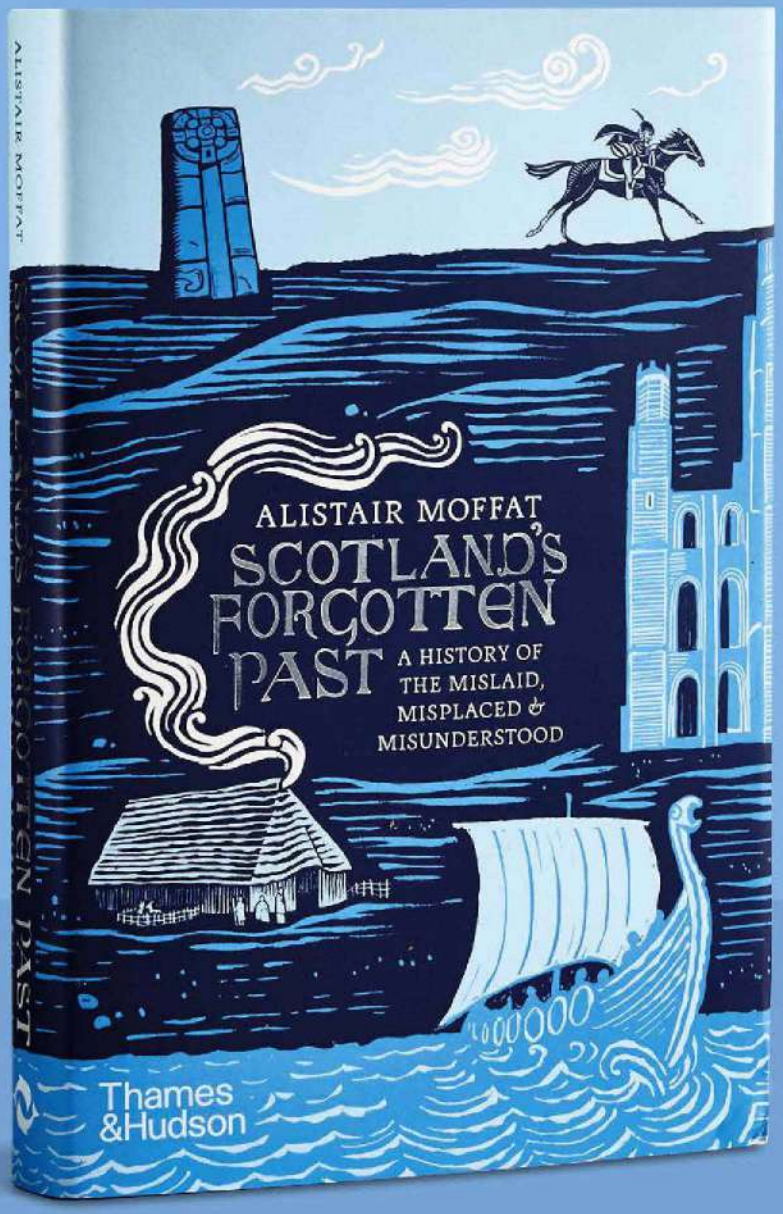
FROM PIRATE KINGS TO PETER PAN WITH A LITTLE BIT OF SHAKESPEARE, DISCOVER A HIDDEN WORLD OF SCOTTISH SECRETS



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Benjamin West's 1779 portrait of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. Thirteen of the couple's children are visible in the background, some of whom would later become embroiled in embarrassing scandals

SEX, LIES AND LUCKY ESCAPES

From illicit affairs to assassination attempts, **Felicity Day** reveals the scandals that rocked the court of King George III and Queen Charlotte, whose relationship is the focus of a new *Bridgerton* spin-off series

ALAMY X2

A painting depicts Frederica, the bride-to-be of Frederick, Duke of York, meeting in-laws George III and Queen Charlotte for the first time. The duke would prove to be a far from faithful husband

It's often said that the court of George III and Queen Charlotte was dull and censorious. "The palace of piety," Horace Walpole called it. The royal couple were famously frugal, and far from having a bevy of buxom mistresses like his grandfather George II, the king had no woman in his life but his wife, mother of his 15 children. He and Charlotte were known to look askance on the adultery and excesses of their aristocratic subjects.

Yet their court was to be rocked by scandals – and the biggest of them were of the royal family's own making.

CRIMINAL CONVERSATION

It was one of George III's brothers who dragged the family into the scandal sheets in his first decade as king. In December 1769, the papers divulged that an assignation between Henry, Duke of Cumberland, and his lover, Lady Grosvenor (sister of one of the queen's ladies) had been interrupted by her husband's servants. The pair had been caught together in a bedchamber at a busy coaching inn in St Albans, their clothing in disarray. Lord Grosvenor had promptly hauled the duke into court, and during a trial for 'criminal conversation' with his wife, all manner of embarrassing details about the rakish royal were revealed – from the apparent enjoyment he had taken in dressing up in disguise for their secret trysts, to the lamentable spelling in his love letters.

Forced to foot the £13,000 bill for damages and fees, the king was furious that his sibling had shown so little regard for the moral responsibility that he (and many of his subjects) believed came with exalted rank. But he was all the more angry in 1771, when he learned that the serially philandering Henry had taken to the altar flamboyant widow Anne Horton, daughter of a baron dubbed 'the King of Hell' thanks to his womanising ways. He described the union as "a disgrace to the whole family" – though it became far more than that. George's anger led to the creation of the Royal Marriages Act 1772 (*see box on page 63*), which rendered illegal the marriage of any royal under the age of 25 without the monarch's consent, the only exception being descendants of princesses who married into foreign families.

Whether it was because they knew that any marriage sanctioned by their father would prioritise European politics over passion, most of George and Charlotte's

MAIN: **George III's brother, Henry, Duke of Cumberland, embarrassed the royal family with his philandering ways**

RIGHT: **The duke's affair with Lady Grosvenor landed him in court**

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X5, BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY X1

seven surviving sons chose lifestyles as rakish as their uncle Cumberland's.

George, Prince of Wales distressed them particularly with a string of indiscreetly conducted love affairs, and was known to have defied his father's act and married a handsome Catholic widow, Maria Fitzherbert – only to cruelly cast her aside. His lawful marriage in 1795 to his cousin, Caroline of Brunswick, was to cause even more unwelcome chatter, as he paraded his mistresses at court while pointedly ignoring her, before subjecting the princess to an inquiry into allegations of her adultery and the birth of an illegitimate son. The so-called 'Delicate Investigation' of 1806 – which acquitted Caroline – was a private matter that in time became a very public scandal, the couple using the newspapers to air their grievances and the nation taking sides. The war of the Wales' took its toll on the queen especially. "My dislike to everything public is greatly increased," she told the king at one stage, having found herself caught in the middle of their marital drama.

LIVES LEFT IN TATTERS

Interestingly, though, it wasn't only wayward sons she had to worry about; one of Charlotte's daughters also brought scandal to her door. Despite the six princesses interacting with few women, let alone men outside 'the nunnery' (as they called the royal household), in 1801, gossips began to debate whether Princess Sophia's illness the previous summer, while the court was at Weymouth, had, in fact, been a secret pregnancy.

Her sister Elizabeth called it a "fabricated and most scandalous and base report" but historians now believe the rumour was true, and Sophia did indeed give birth to a baby boy in July or August 1800, fathered by one of the king's equerries, General Thomas Garth, and left with a tailor in the town, whose wife was supposed to pass him off as her own. Fuelled by Garth's adoption of the child, the reports gathered pace in the years after, when it was said the queen knew of the unvirtuous conduct of her daughter, reportedly so innocent that she had not even known she was pregnant. It appears the gossip did not then leak beyond the morally elastic world of the aristocracy – where such a 'false step' was not unheard of – but the scandal certainly damaged Sophia's reputation. "I have lost myself in the world by my conduct," she later admitted, "and, alas, have felt it humbly, for many, many have changed towards me". Lonely, miserable and separated from her son, she lived the remainder of her life in seclusion.

ABOVE: **A portrait of Maria Fitzherbert, with whom George, Prince of Wales entered into an illegal marriage**

LEFT: **The prince's legitimate marriage to Caroline of Brunswick was far from happy**

BELOW: **Rumours that Caroline had given birth to an illegitimate child became the subject of satire**

George and Charlotte's 12th child, Princess Sophia, had a son with one of her father's equerries

"All manner of details about the rakish royal were revealed – including the apparent enjoyment he had taken in dressing up in disguise for secret trysts"

Leaving another royal reputation in tatters was the cash-for-commissions scandal in which Sophia's brother, Frederick, Duke of York, commander-in-chief of the British Army, was embroiled by a vengeful former mistress, deprived of her promised allowance. When it exploded in 1809, it emerged that during their three-year affair courtesan Mary Anne Clarke had abused her access to the duke's official papers, taking bribes from military men in exchange for adding their names to the promotion lists which it was his job to authorise. Even her footman had managed to obtain a commission that way.

CUT FROM EAR TO EAR

With a humiliating British retreat from Spain in the war against Napoleon very raw, Parliament had opted for an inquiry into the duke's complicity. A prince effectively on trial for corruption in the House of Commons was bad enough, but the glamorous Mary Anne was induced to testify against him and boldly stated that her lover had connived in her schemes. Her clever responses and double entendres made MPs laugh and stirred up more public outrage over the apparently immoral, indulgent lifestyles of the royal men. Some observers felt that it was a waste of parliamentary time "when so many other important objects require[d] their attention" but it was the hottest topic in town, spawning a veritable avalanche of cartoons lampooning the lustful duke.

It eventually transpired that the names had been added to the lists without the duke's knowledge, but with public opinion against him, he was forced to resign. And the matter was not quite over even then. A hefty sum had to be paid to gag Mrs Clarke and suppress her memoirs, which threatened further embarrassment for the family.

"Clarke's clever responses and double entendres made MPs laugh and stirred up more public outrage over the apparently immoral lifestyles of the royal men"

Only a year later, yet another son, Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, found himself the talk of every dinner table, but in his case, it concerned something much more serious than an extra-marital affair: murder.

"ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND" had screamed the headlines, the papers revealing that in the early hours of 31 May 1810, the duke had been ferociously attacked with his own sabre as he slept, his assailant splitting open his skull with sufficient force to reveal his brains. Soon after the alarm had been raised, the duke's valet, Joseph Sellis, had been found locked in his room, "his throat cut from ear to ear".

A VILLAIN UNMASKED

The inquest concluded that Sellis had committed the bloody crime before taking his own life, but the verdict did little to quash talk of the affair. "The business is a most mysterious one," mused one lady, "endless stories are circulated". Some of these concerned possible motives for the attack. Ranging from revenge for an affair between the duke and his wife to an angry rejection of his employer's homosexual advances, they rarely painted the royal in a good light. But there was a far more sinister rumour in circulation, too, which said the duke was not the victim but the villain.

In the eyes of his critics he certainly looked the part, mostly thanks to a prominent battle scar on the side of his face. There was also his reputedly "bad character" – "the soldiers on guard say they wish he had been cut to pieces

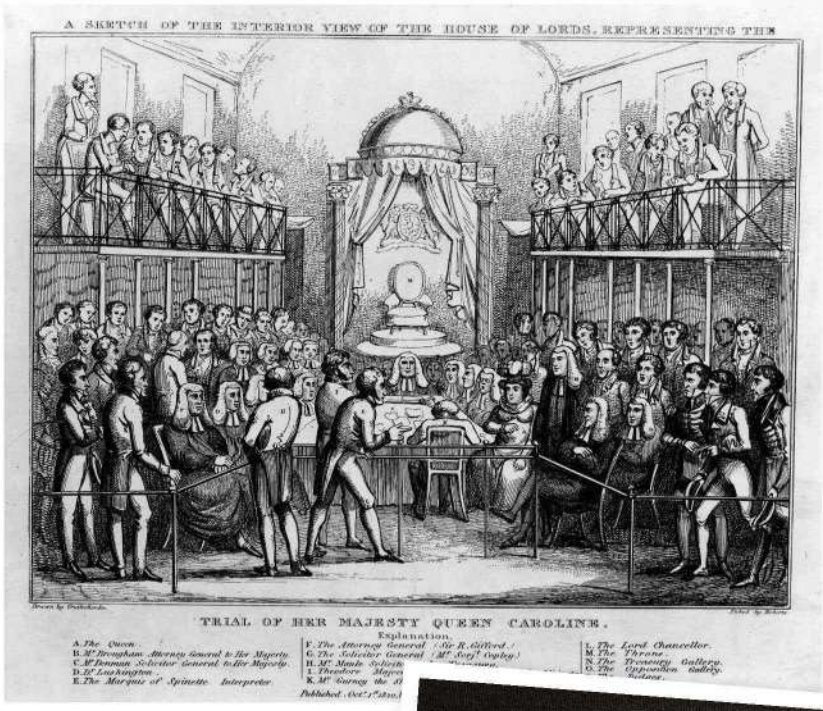
CLARK and COMPANY.
What time shall we play now Jack the Duke of Yorks March
No No lets play who's off with another.
Now Gentlemen you had better be quick I have a few bargains to dispose of. as the partnership is dissolving.
If you want de commission you must give me de Note den I go play de Fiddle to de white petticoat.
THE YORK DILLY OR THE TRIUMPH OF INNOCENCE.

ABOVE: **Cartoons mocked the Duke of York's affair with Mary Anne Clarke, who duped him into dishing out promotions to corrupt military men**

RIGHT: **An undated image of Clarke, who penned memoirs about the scandal**

FAR RIGHT: **Another cartoon pokes fun at the duke's exoneration in March 1809**

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X5



ABOVE: **The House of Lords pictured during Caroline of Brunswick's 1820 'trial' for adultery**

RIGHT: **Ernest Augustus, who later became king of Hanover, was said to be of "bad character"**

instead of wounded," said one report. And gossip had already coupled his name with another wicked crime: since 1804 members of the *haut ton* had heard rumours that the father of Princess Sophia's child was actually her brother Ernest.

THE END OF AN ERROR?

The ladies of the royal family were certainly believed to be wary of him. Even his mother, Queen Charlotte, wrote that she was saddened by the attack "independent of one's feelings towards him". The crime scene had been disturbed, too, which only encouraged conspiracy theories. Not to mention that it did seem strange that the duke could have mistaken such a violent attack for a bat flying against his head, as he said in his evidence. Unsurprisingly, whispers about his own guilt persisted for the rest of his life.

The family scandals rolled on and on, too. In 1813, Ernest was accused of influencing a parliamentary election in Weymouth, and in 1815 chose for his wife a princess who had publicly jilted his brother Adolphus (and was herself dogged by a rumour that she had poisoned her late husband). On and on they even went, too, after Queen Charlotte's death in 1818 and King George's in 1820. George IV attempted to divorce his wife Caroline in a sensational public 'trial' and then excluded her from his coronation in 1821 – spending the ceremony indecently winking at and sighing over his latest mistress instead.

Then in 1829, Sophia's not-so-secret son hit the headlines when he attempted to blackmail the royals over his true parentage, and Ernest was accused of sexual assault.

Little wonder that by 1837 the nation was ready for the comparatively boring court of Queen Victoria, as moral and dutiful as her grandparents George and Charlotte could have wished.

FELICITY DAY is a journalist specialising in British history and heritage. Her first book, *The Game of Hearts: The Lives and Loves of Regency Women*, was published by Blink Publishing in September 2022

GET HOOKED

READ AND LISTEN

For full details about *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*, turn to page 74. You can also learn more about the real history behind *Bridgerton* at *historyextra.com/bridgerton*

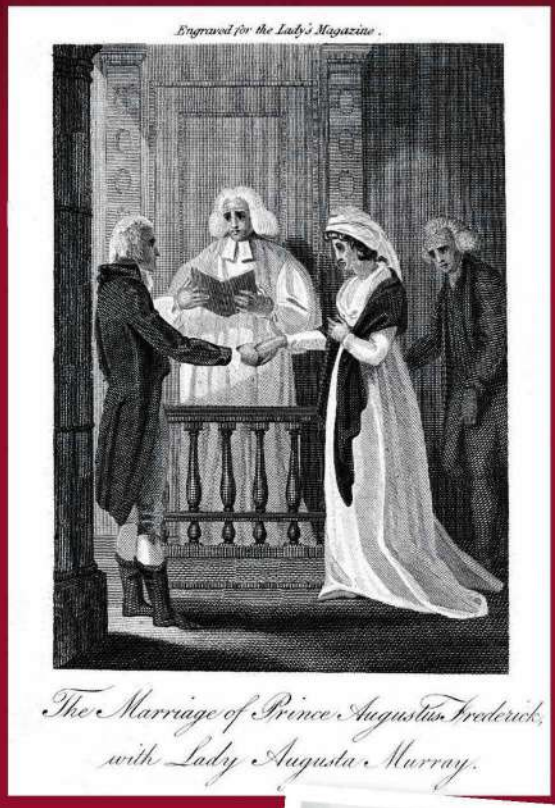
CAUGHT IN THE ACT

A controversial piece of legislation passed by George III went on to block several royal marriages – even as recently as the 1950s

It wasn't only George III's heir who defied his Royal Marriages Act of 1772. In 1793, the king's sixth son, Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, secretly married Lady Augusta Murray, who went on to bear him two children. Their marriage was declared null and void in accordance with the act, however, and they eventually separated.

The future King William IV, meanwhile, was rumoured to have had his marital hopes dashed on its altar. Having abandoned his relationship with the actor Dorothea Jordan, with whom he had 10 illegitimate children, he was reportedly eager to wed heiress Sophia Wykeham, only for the match to be thwarted by Parliament and his eldest brother, by then Prince Regent.

The act even caused heartache in the 20th century, obstructing the marriage of Princess Margaret and her father's equerry, Peter Townsend, in 1955. The legislation was repealed as a result of the 2011 Perth Agreement, and now, only the first six people in the line of succession need permission to marry (and only if they wish to inherit the throne).



ABOVE: **Augustus Frederick secretly married Lady Augusta Murray in 1793, much to his parents' dismay**

RIGHT: **Ashberry Cottage in Forest Hill, London – built on the site of a home where the future William IV is said to have lived with Dorothea Jordan**

WHAT IF... RICHARD THE LIONHEART HAD RECAPTURED JERUSALEM?

Nige Tassell and **Professor Rebecca Rist** consider the consequences for history had the Third Crusade returned the Holy City to Christian control

In January 1192, Richard the Lionheart – aka Richard I of England – advanced with his men towards Jerusalem, the holy city taken by Saladin, the founder of the Ayyubid dynasty, nearly five years earlier. Richard was by now the de facto leader of the Third Crusade, during which he had already enjoyed significant success, taking the strategically important cities of Acre and Jaffa the previous year.

He and his forces reached the village of Bayt Nuba, just a dozen miles from Jerusalem's city walls. With Muslim morale low, re-establishing Christian control could have been within his grasp, but instead Richard retreated to spend the rest of the winter on the coast at the port of Ascalon. In the short term, he was cautious about both the poor weather conditions and the strength of his men, while also being in two minds about his long-term ability to hold on to Jerusalem. Instead, Richard opted for a settlement. The Treaty of Jaffa was signed with Saladin the following autumn, keeping the city under Muslim control but allowing access for Christian traders and pilgrims.

A TAXING SITUATION

Had Richard chosen to recapture Jerusalem, he would surely have faced a renewed campaign from Saladin to recapture it for himself, as Rebecca Rist, professor of medieval history at the University of Reading, observes. "Losing the holy city of Jerusalem to the crusaders would have undoubtedly tarnished Saladin's renowned reputation in the Muslim world, but he still had great military might, despite the significant losses at Acre and Jaffa, whereas much of Richard's army had dissipated and gone back to Acre by October 1191. Saladin would have needed popular will, political ability and organisational capacity to retake Jerusalem – and it appears he had all three. His bouts of ill health and his lack of ready cash were his only weaknesses."

Had Richard attacked, taken and held Jerusalem, there may well have been consequences back home in England, where his brother John was conspiring with Philip II of France to take Richard's crown. As it was, Philip was already threatening his lands in northern France. This situation, along with the strain on resources that holding Jerusalem would have created, were further factors that influenced his decision to demur.

"There were never enough crusaders in the Holy Land," Professor Rist explains. "People tended to go back to the west after they had fulfilled their vows. And crusading was an expensive business. Richard would have needed the Church to set up new crusading taxes – as Pope Innocent III did from 1213 onwards for the Fifth Crusade – hence he might have had to raise another 'Saladin Tithe' which, in 1188, had been unpopular."

Had Richard chosen to retake Jerusalem, what would have been the consequences for Christianity in the region? "Catholics would have benefitted because priests would have remained in the city and been maintained in the churches there. However, this was to be agreed in the Treaty of Jaffa anyway. The Greek Orthodox would have fared less well because the imposition of the Latin rite would have meant that Catholic bishops would have been appointed rather than Orthodox bishops.

"The peace treaty did allow Christian traders and pilgrims access to Jerusalem, but if Richard had taken the city, arguably more of them would have

DID YOU KNOW?

THE LION'S TONGUE

Richard the Lionheart may not have been able to speak English. Instead, he likely spoke French and Occitan – the language of Aquitaine, where he lived as an adult. In fact, he probably only spent around six months in England during his 10-year reign.

IN CONTEXT

The Third Crusade – also known as the Kings' Crusade as its spearhead was formed by Richard I of England, Philip II of France and the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I – was launched in May 1189 in order to reverse the territorial gains of the Ayyubid sultan Saladin. The crusaders were successful in capturing key sites and cities, but failed to take Jerusalem under Christian control. This wasn't because their attack on the Holy City was unsuccessful, but rather the result of Richard choosing to retreat instead when very close to the city walls, preferring to consolidate the crusade's successes with the signing of the Treaty of Jaffa in 1192.

A 19th-century illustration depicts Saladin entering Jerusalem in October 1187. The Ayyubid sultan captured the city from the crusaders after a 12-day siege

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

flocked there as news of the crusaders' capture would have reached the west and the huge upsurge in morale would have acted as an enormous catalyst for trade and pilgrimage."

Freeing the holy places for pilgrims was a main aim of the crusaders, rather than the promotion of Christian ideals across the region. "Crusades to the near east were not launched to spread Christianity. If Muslims converted, that was considered well and good, but conversion of Muslims was never a specific aim of the papacy in its call for near eastern crusades."

SLOWING AMBITIONS

Richard may have turned back 12 miles from Jerusalem, but the Fourth Crusade, launched 10 years later in 1202, set the recapture of the city as its primary goal. So, without Richard's retreat, this Fourth Crusade may never have happened – or, at least, it would have taken a different form. And, as Professor Rist concludes, this subsequent crusade would make a significant impact on world history.

"As a result of the Fourth Crusade, the former Byzantine empire was split into, on the one hand, the new Latin empire based in Constantinople, and, on the other, the Byzantine successor states. Had the Byzantine empire remained intact, there would have been a stronger bulwark against the expansion of Muslim groups such as the Ayyubids and Mamluks, with the Greek Orthodox Church able to exert much greater spiritual authority in the near east.

"A stronger Byzantium might not have thwarted the rise of the Ottoman Turks, but it could have slowed down their territorial ambitions, particularly in a westward direction. The Byzantines did reconquer Constantinople in 1261. However, if Constantinople had not been so weakened by the Fourth Crusade, it might have been better able to withstand Ottoman conquest, the Eastern Orthodox Church would have remained a more powerful spiritual force in the near east, and Ottoman expansion might have been contained. When the Ottomans conquered Constantinople in 1453, the Byzantine empire came to an end."

LISTEN
Professor Rebecca Rist answers listeners' questions about the Crusades in an episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast from 2020:
historyextra.com/crusades-everything-pod

NEXT MONTH
What if Britain hadn't cracked the Enigma code?

"THE HUGE UPSURGE IN MORALE WOULD HAVE ACTED AS AN ENORMOUS CATALYST FOR PILGRIMAGE"

RIGHT: The crusaders captured Acre in 1191, but retaking Jerusalem was considered a step too far

BELOW: King Richard I, seen here on horseback, settled with Saladin by signing the Treaty of Jaffa

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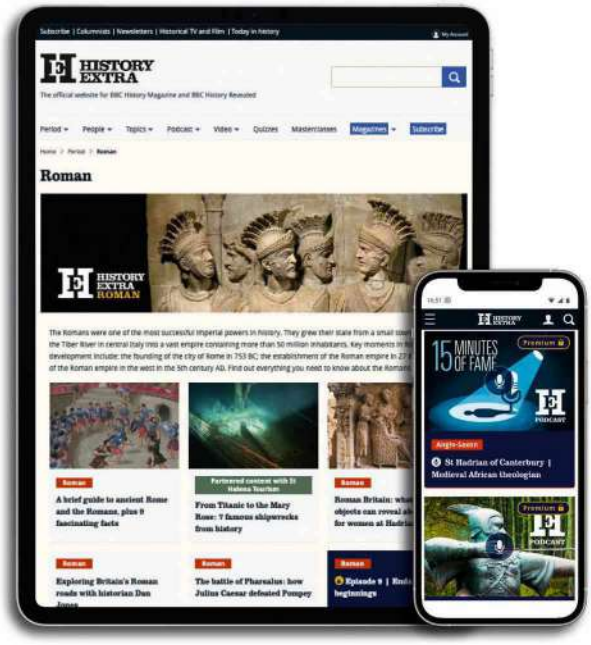

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18,728

The number of people in Ecuador named Stalin between 1950 and 2015. He was not the only Soviet leader to prove popular: there were also 18,464 Lenins.

SILENT KILLER
A woodblock print depicts a ninja warrior launching an attack with their *katana* sword. Unlike the samurai, the ninja mostly worked covertly – and for hire, rather than honour

What were the origins of the ninja?

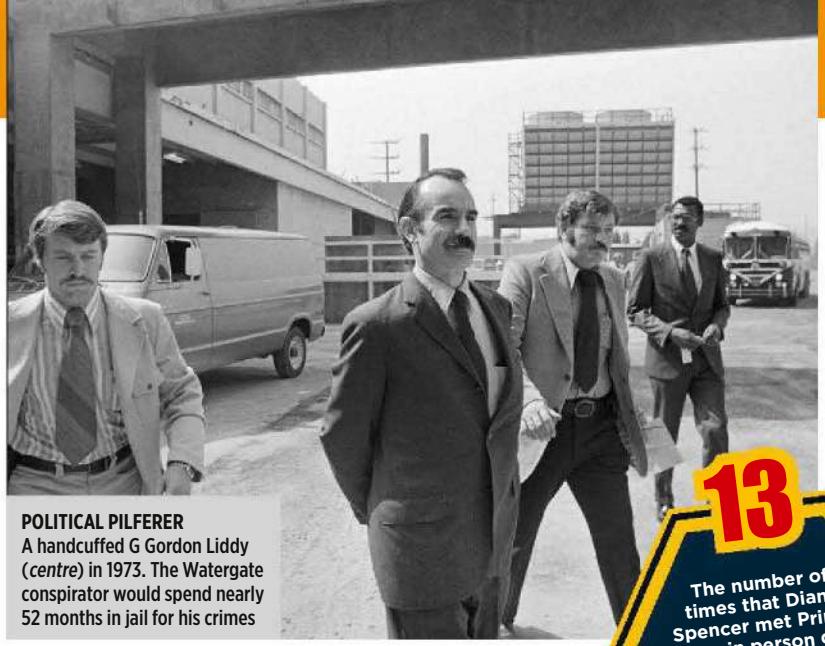
SHORT ANSWER The ongoing wars of feudal Japan needed fighters willing to do things the samurai wouldn't

LONG ANSWER There are some elements of the typical movie ninja that have to be discarded. The real warriors of feudal Japan were masters of disguise, so dressed in whatever the job needed rather than the cliché all-black attire and masks. While they certainly dabbled in assassination, they were mostly spies, scouts and infiltrators – and were for hire, doing it for cash instead of honour or some sort of ancient code.

As the ninja were mercenaries recruited from the lower classes; trained in their own brand of guerrilla tactics, commonly known as *ninjutsu*; and blended Japanese and Chinese styles, they were less honourable than the likes of the samurai. That's what made them useful: they would be hired, including by samurai, to do the dirty work of deception, ambush and sabotage.

Since their deeds were clandestine, it's hardly surprising they don't appear in many historical records. Accounts of spies that could be said to be nascent ninja go back as far as the sixth century AD, but it was not until the Sengoku period in the 15th century that the ninja emerged as their own entity, the *shinobi*, and formed their own clans. From the 17th century, they fell into obscurity and became more myth than reality, imbued with superhuman skills of invisibility, shapeshifting and control over the elements. No wonder they appealed to moviemakers.

GETTY IMAGES X1



POLITICAL PILFERER
A handcuffed G Gordon Liddy (*centre*) in 1973. The Watergate conspirator would spend nearly 52 months in jail for his crimes

13
The number of times that Diana Spencer met Prince Charles in person during the four years from first meeting to their engagement.

Who were the White House Plumbers?

SHORT ANSWER The Watergate scandal broke thanks, in part, to a bunch of 'plumbers' who could not fix leaks

LONG ANSWER When five burglars were caught in the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters at Washington DC's Watergate complex on the night of 17 June 1972, it smashed open a scandal that brought down US president Richard Nixon. At the heart of the matter was a secret task force in the White House, known as the Plumbers, whose job was to stop leaks, discredit opposition and help Nixon get re-elected.

Prominent Plumbers included White House aides Egil Krogh and David Young, former CIA officer E Howard Hunt and former FBI agent G Gordon Liddy. Following the break-in – to repair bugging equipment planted to spy on the DNC – a major conspiracy unravelled, involving illegal wiretapping, money laundering and assassination plots. It later turned out that one of the burglars, James W McCord Jr, was the security chief of Nixon's re-election campaign.

Eventually, in August 1974, Nixon resigned; many of the Plumbers ended up being imprisoned.

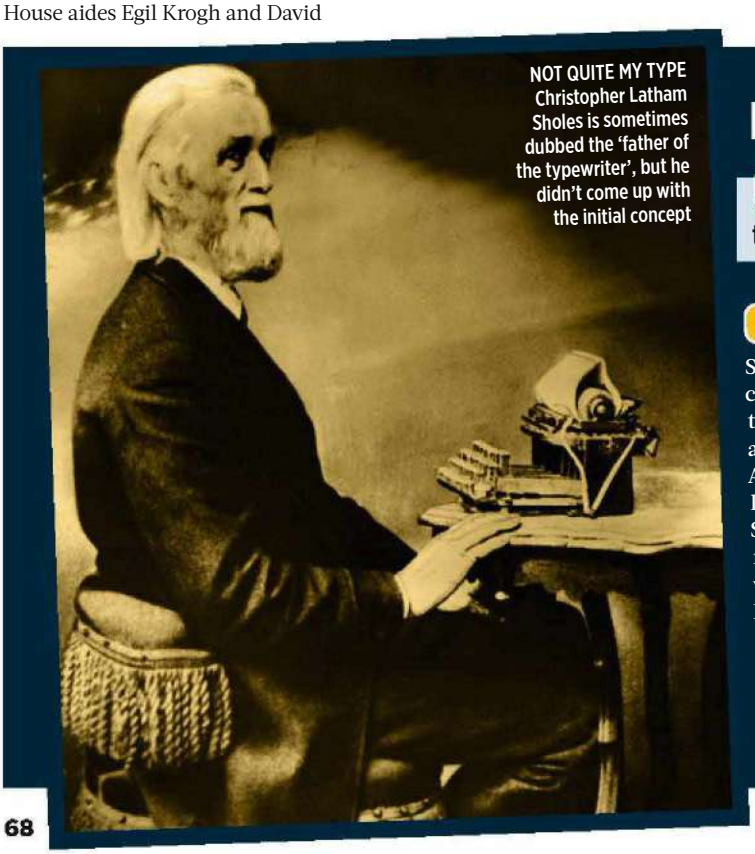
What is the oldest dated book?

SHORT ANSWER A 1,150-year-old copy of the *Diamond Sutra* is our shining example

LONG ANSWER In 1900, tens of thousands of preserved ancient manuscripts were discovered in the Mogoa Caves, or the Caves of a Thousand Buddhas, in northwest China. Among them was a copy of a text known as the *Diamond Sutra* (so named because its teachings would apparently cut through pre-existing perspectives like a diamond), printed using woodblocks on a five-metre scroll and containing lessons from the historical Buddha.

What made the copy significant was a line declaring that it had been printed on "the 13th of the fourth moon of the ninth year of Xiantong", or 11 May AD 868, making it the oldest book in the world with a definite date. The copy found its way into the hands of the Hungarian-born archaeologist Aurel Stein before being obtained by the British Library.

MAGNIFICENT MANUSCRIPT
The frontispiece of the British Library's *Diamond Sutra* shows the historical Buddha addressing his elderly disciple, Subhūti



NOT QUITE MY TYPE
Christopher Latham Sholes is sometimes dubbed the 'father of the typewriter', but he didn't come up with the initial concept

How old is the typewriter?

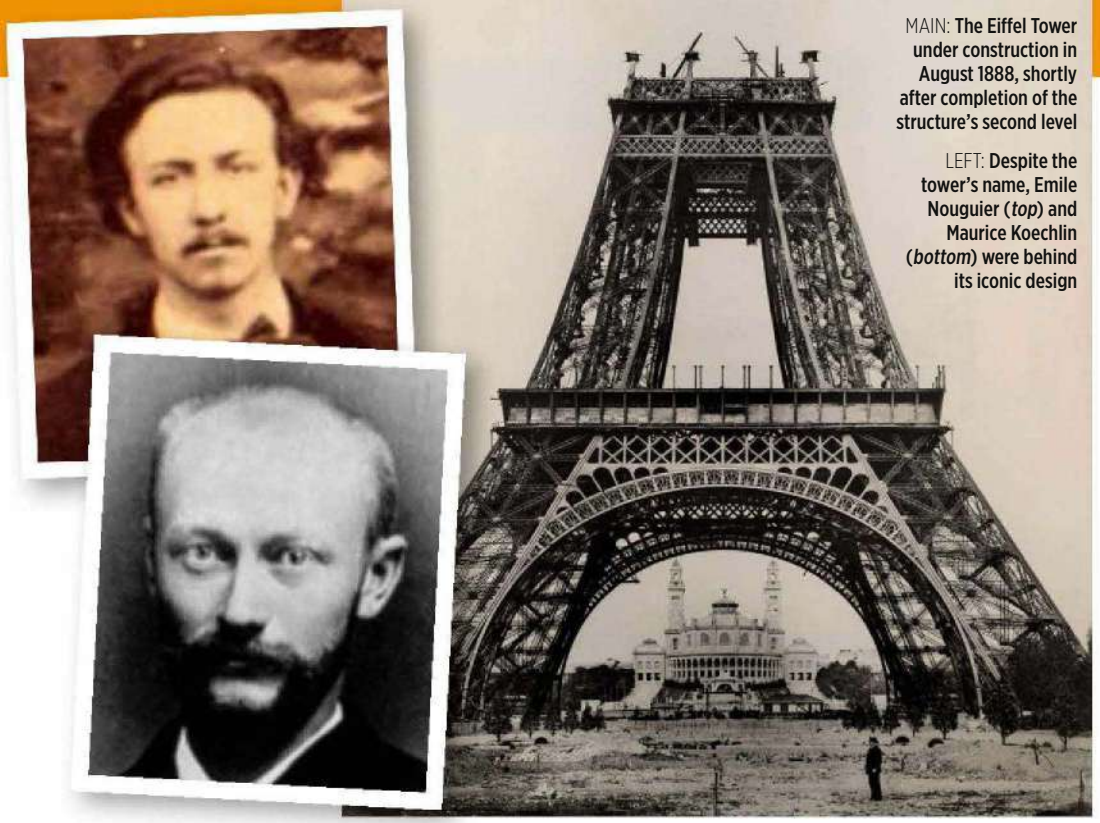
SHORT ANSWER Inventors in the 19th century were tip-tapping away trying to making typing quicker

LONG ANSWER Christopher Latham Sholes is a name that often comes up when talking about the first typewriter. Receiving a patent in June 1868, the American inventor developed his machine with the help of Samuel W Soule and amateur mechanic Carlos S Glidden, and went into business with the Remington Arms Company. While he achieved commercial success when his device was put on the market in 1874 (complete with the first-ever QWERTY keyboard), Sholes was far from the first person to create such a machine.

Italian Pellegrino Turri devised a typewriter for the blind to use in the first decade of the 19th century, while in the 1820s, American William Austin Burt patented his one-letter-at-a-time Typographer.

Dr Samuel Francis, around a decade before Sholes, thought he cracked it with his machine, which was dubbed the 'literary piano' due to its resemblance to a keyboard instrument. But to be honest, his inventions were a little bit hit-and-miss, ranging from the self-opening coffin to, more lastingly, the spork.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3



MAIN: **The Eiffel Tower under construction in August 1888, shortly after completion of the structure's second level**

LEFT: **Despite the tower's name, Emile Nouguier (*top*) and Maurice Koechlin (*bottom*) were behind its iconic design**

Who really designed the Eiffel Tower?

SHORT ANSWER This is not a trick question: it was NOT Gustave Eiffel

LONG ANSWER From more than 100 options entered into a competition to build a monument in Paris, the French engineer Gustave Eiffel's tower was chosen. And, of course, he has been immortalised in the name of the iron-lattice tower subsequently erected for the Exposition Universelle of 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution. Except, Eiffel didn't design the Eiffel Tower.

Two chief engineers at his company, Emile Nouguier and Maurice Koechlin, came up with the idea, having been inspired by the wooden Latting Observatory in New York. Then architect Stephen Sauvestre drew up the plans with some decorative additions. It actually took a while for Eiffel himself to approve the design.

Once he did, he threw his weight behind the project. It took just two years and two months to build using around 18,000 wrought-iron parts and 2.5 million rivets. The 300-metre Eiffel Tower instantly became the tallest human-made structure in the world and an icon not only of 19th-century architecture, but of the nation of France. The group of 300 artists who signed a protest against the "useless and monstrous" tower must have felt a little silly after its glorious inauguration in March 1889.

DID YOU KNOW?

DATE OF DESTINY

On 3 September 1650, Oliver Cromwell won the battle of Dunbar; exactly a year later, 3 September 1651, he won at Worcester. If that date didn't already have enough significance, the lord protector then died on 3 September 1658.

I GOT YOU, BABE

In 1931, two of baseball's best-ever players, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, were struck out by a 17-year-old girl named Jackie Mitchell. Days later, her contract was torn up and women declared unfit to play.

QE... WHO?

The luxury cruise ship *Queen Elizabeth 2* (or QE2) was not named after the monarch who launched it in 1967, but an earlier Cunard liner. The Queen christened it "the second" in the ceremony, and the name stuck.

DISMAL EXISTENCE

Not every day for Charles Darwin was about changing the world with his theories on evolution. In 1861, he wrote to a friend: "I am very poorly today & very stupid & hate everybody & everything. One lives only to make blunders."

How long were Roman togas?

SHORT ANSWER If the uncomfortable but symbol-laden dress was only a few metres of cloth, a Roman was lucky

LONG ANSWER A Roman toga does not exactly scream practicality, since the folds of cloth were so cumbersome that they had to be constantly draped over the arm. What's more, togas were usually made from wool, which was far from ideal in the hot climate, and they were often at least 3.5 metres long. By the days of the Roman empire, their length was sometimes as much as 6 metres.

For what the toga lost in user-friendliness, it made up for in symbolic power; regarded as the oldest form of Roman dress, the garment was said to have been worn by the city's founder, Romulus. They also came in a variety of options, from the standard white ones to the purple togas worn by consuls and emperors.

LEND ME A HAND? A sculpture of the first Roman emperor, Augustus, shows him sporting a toga and veil – the traditional dress for performing a sacrifice

Why were they called the Plantagenets?

SHORT ANSWER The medieval dynasty was named after a shrub

LONG ANSWER England's longest-reigning royal dynasty – which ruled for 331 years, from 1154 to 1485 – began when a French count, Geoffrey of Anjou, married Empress Matilda. Their son was Henry II, the first Plantagenet monarch. As the story goes, Geoffrey had picked up a nickname relating to the common broom plant, a type of shrub with yellow flowers, as he liked to wear a sprig in his hat. In Latin, its name is *planta genista*. But it wouldn't be until the 15th century that Richard, Duke of York claimed the throne as Richard Plantagenet, which finally established the name of the dynasty.

COST OF DYING CRISIS
Poorer Victorians sometimes had to turn to burial societies in order to ensure their loved ones could rest in peace

16.5

The time, in minutes, it took on 20 August 1911 for the first round-the-world commercial telegram to be sent by telegraph.

What were Victorian burial societies?

SHORT ANSWER A system to help the poor pay for funerals was corrupted into a deadly money-making enterprise

LONG ANSWER As 19th-century Britain entered the Victorian age, the population grew while threats to life caused by the Industrial Revolution intensified. The result was a high death rate, especially among children and the poor, and many people unable to afford a proper burial, which meant a pauper's funeral.

To combat this, well-meaning organisations formed burial societies. In return for a regular membership fee, they would cover expenses when the time came. But the system was abused by societies charging what they wanted and setting rules arbitrarily, and exploited by members. Specifically, some people paid into multiple clubs so they could make several claims per death, or, since proof of death was not required, they claimed on someone who was still alive.

Worst of all, there were many cases of murder just to collect a payout. In 1846, John Rhodda of York was hanged for killing his child in return for two pounds and 10 shillings.

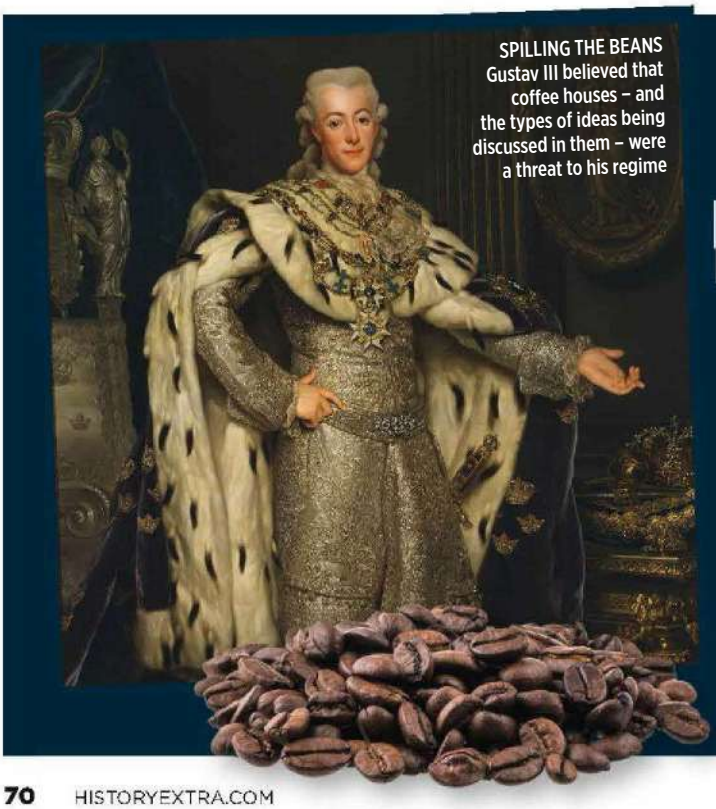
Why do people touch Saint Peter's foot?

SHORT ANSWER Centuries of pilgrimages and prayers have taken their toll on the first pope

LONG ANSWER Among the priceless treasures found inside St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican is a bronze statue of Saint Peter. Generally attributed to the 13th-century Italian architect Arnolfo di Cambio, this depiction of Christ's apostle (and first pope) is sat on a throne and holding a key to the kingdom of Heaven.

Yet the most striking feature is the right foot sticking out from the marble plinth, which has been so severely worn that it more resembles a flipper. The toes have all but disappeared due to a centuries-old tradition of pilgrims coming to the holy place, built on the site of Saint Peter's tomb, and kissing or rubbing the foot while asking for a blessing. After untold millions of touches, going on to this day, the bronze stood no chance.

GET THE BLESSING
Visitors from all over the world gather to kiss and touch the foot of Arnolfo di Cambio's saintly statue



SPILLING THE BEANS
Gustav III believed that coffee houses – and the types of ideas being discussed in them – were a threat to his regime

What was Gustav III's coffee experiment?

SHORT ANSWER The Swedish king wanted to prove that the brew was life-threatening. He was wrong

LONG ANSWER The King of Sweden Gustav III (reigned 1771–92) had a mission to prove that drinking coffee, an increasingly popular beverage among his people, could seriously damage one's health. His reason: he disliked it, but not as much as hating how coffee houses were places of dangerous political talk. So, the king decided to concoct a fiendish experiment.

He found a pair of identical twins both in prison for murder – a convenience that has raised eyebrows among some historians – and offered to spare their lives if they let him ply one with three pots of coffee a day and the other with tea. Gustav would then wait to see who died first.

He never found out the results since the twins were alive and well at the time of his assassination in 1792, and still enjoying their daily brews. In the end, the coffee drinker outlived his tea-sipping brother, as well as the medical professionals supervising the experiment.

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

THE MOON MEN
Pete Conrad, Dick Gordon and Alan Bean (*left to right*) shortly before embarking on Nasa's second crewed lunar mission

What happened on Apollo 12?

SHORT ANSWER Although sandwiched between two more famous missions, the second Moon landing had its shocks

LONG ANSWER The events of Apollo 11 (the Moon landing, "one small step…" and all that) and Apollo 13 (the near-disaster turned into a remarkable rescue) are undoubtedly major chapters in the history of space travel, but what about the one in between?

For the Apollo 12 astronauts, the pressure was off following the previous mission's success. And it showed, given Pete Conrad's first words on the Moon: "Whoopee! Man, that may have been a small one for Neil, but that's a long one for me!"

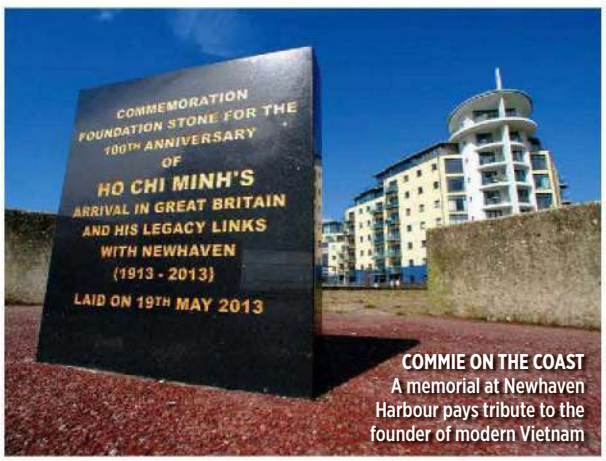
Things weren't all that fun at the beginning. Within a minute of take-off on 14 November 1969, lightning struck the craft… twice. Yet despite some electrical systems failing, this shocking start did nothing to hinder the voyage.

Conrad and Alan Bean spent over 31 gleeful, joke-filled hours on the Moon and made two moonwalks. The first saw them set up geological and environmental experiments, which sent data to Nasa for years, while the second explored the site of Surveyor 3, a robotic probe that landed in 1967. Dick Gordon, on the command module, took photos that proved invaluable for picking future landing sites. Unfortunately, there isn't as much footage from Apollo 12 as there should be, since Bean broke the colour camera they took with them by accidentally pointing it at the Sun.

What has Ho Chi Minh got to do with Sussex?

SHORT ANSWER Before he was the founder of modern Vietnam, he was a pastry chef on the Channel

LONG ANSWER Ho Chi Minh ruled Vietnam for more than two decades, stood as a communist figurehead around the world, and opposed the US in the Vietnam War. But in May 2013, a memorial stone dedicated to 'Uncle Ho' was unveiled in Newhaven on the East Sussex coast. This was to mark how, a century earlier, he had lived in England as a young man, including, he claimed, a spell as a chef on the ferry between Newhaven and Dieppe. The Vietnamese ambassador to the UK also presented a statue of Ho Chi Minh to a local museum, where it still resides today.



COMMIE ON THE COAST
A memorial at Newhaven Harbour pays tribute to the founder of modern Vietnam

FONZIE SCHEME
Henry Winkler pictured in the 1977 *Happy Days* scene that spawned a much-used saying

Why do we say 'jump the shark'?

SHORT ANSWER A TV trope was born when, in *Happy Days*, Fonzie… you guessed it, jumped over a shark

LONG ANSWER To 'jump the shark' is when a television show in decline introduces a gimmick in a desperate attempt to rejuvenate its ratings, only to fail. The – rather literal – origin of the phrase is the wildly popular 1970s sitcom, *Happy Days*. In the fifth season, the beloved character Fonzie, the leather-jacket-wearing, jukebox-hitting greaser played by Henry Winkler, accepts a challenge to water ski off a ramp over a penned-in tiger shark. For a show about an everyday family in the US Midwest in the 1950s, the stunt felt out of place – at least, it did to University of Michigan roommates Jon Hein and Sean Connolly, who coined the phrase 'jump the shark' and set up a website to record other times television shows lost their way in ridiculous fashion. But in truth, this wasn't a jumping the shark moment for *Happy Days*: the show ran for another six seasons, only ending in 1984.

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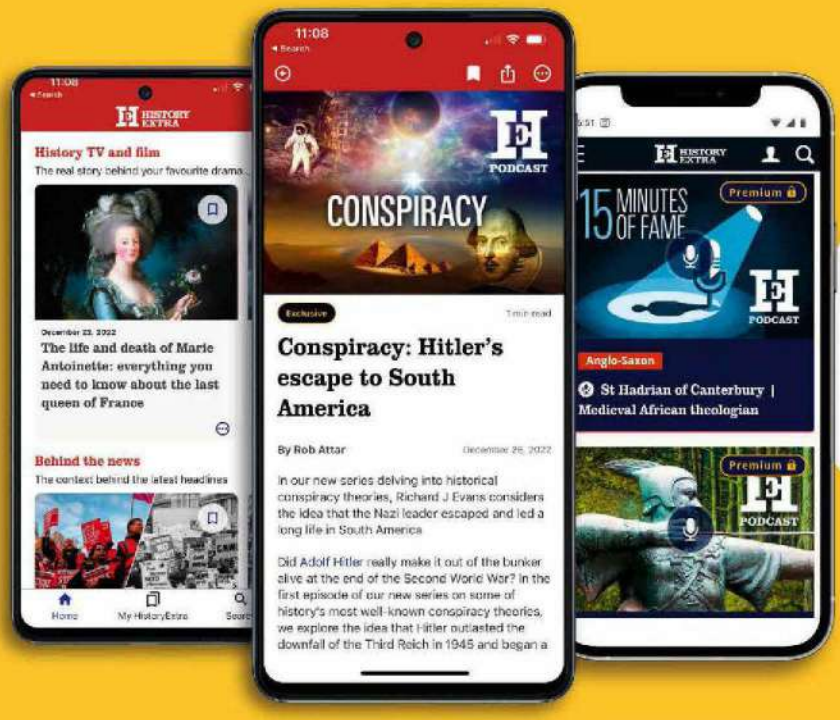
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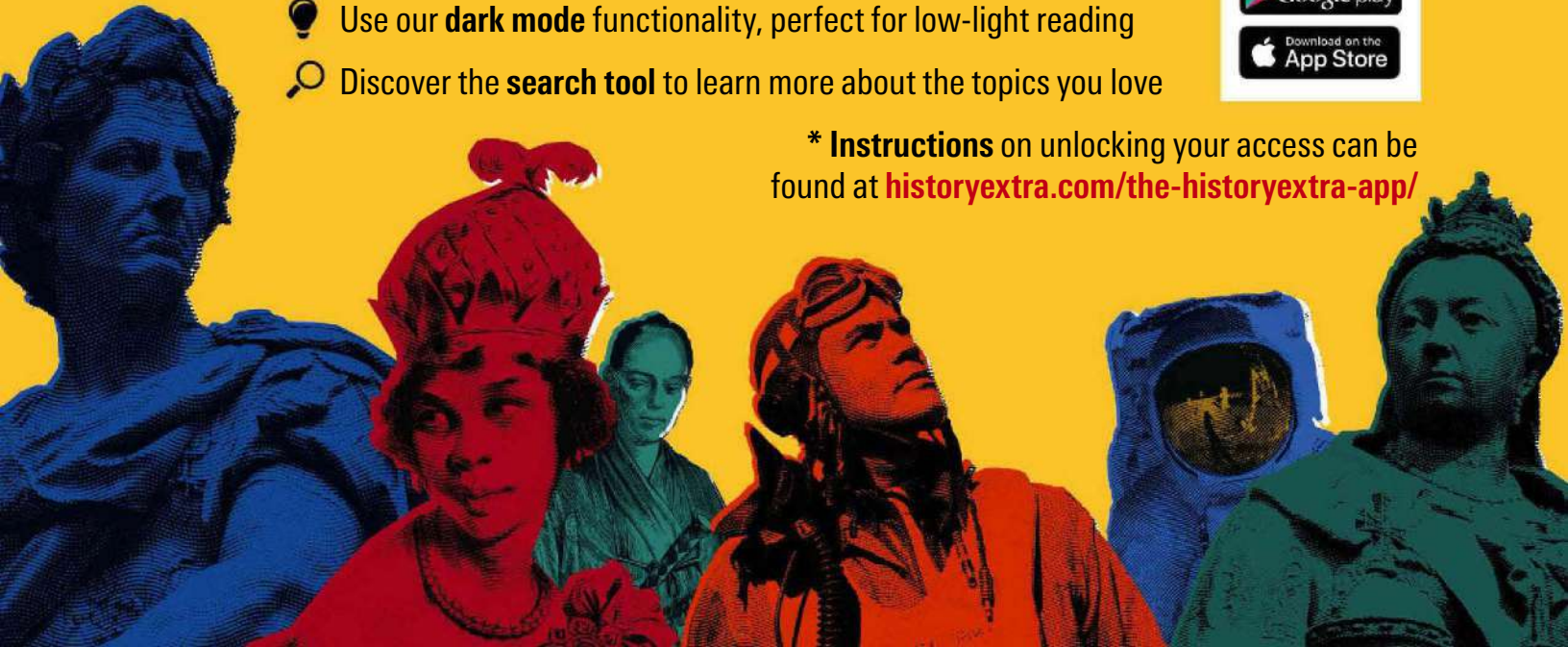


ONE TO WATCH

MAIN: **King Charles III pictured carrying out his government duties in September 2022, shortly after acceding the throne**

BELOW LEFT: **Patrick Grant will host a documentary about the tailors supplying uniforms for the King's Coronation**

BELOW RIGHT: **A seamstress at Kashket & Partners – one of the firms appearing in Grant's programme**

A new beginning

Coronation coverage / multiple channels, Saturday 6 May

The Coronation of King Charles III will be many different things to many different people. Many will be enthralled by the pageantry and sense of occasion on the day itself, Saturday 6 May. Others will simply relish a cheeky extra bank holiday. But whatever your thoughts, this is a solemn and historic occasion, a kind of formal and public acknowledgement that Britain, along with several Commonwealth nations, has a new head of state and defender of the faith.

The BBC is often at its best on such occasions, able to draw on a combination of its expertise and institutional knowledge that encompasses, for instance, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, one of last century's TV landmarks. ITV and Sky will likely also offer extensive coverage.

So what can we look expect on and around the big day? There will of course be live coverage of the Coronation Service from Westminster Abbey, with BBC coverage inclusive to all audiences. On Sunday 7 May, the BBC will offer coverage of the Coronation Concert from the grounds of Windsor Castle. With 20,000 people attending what's being called the Coronation Party, this will be the first time the castle's private grounds have ever hosted a celebration on such a scale.

At the time *BBC History Revealed Magazine* went to press, details of Coronation-themed programming were still sketchy, but one show we are sure will be in the schedules is *Stitching for Britain* (BBC One, May). Presented by Patrick Grant, seriously dapper judge of *The Great British Sewing Bee*, the show takes viewers behind the scenes at Kashket & Partners and Firmin & Sons.

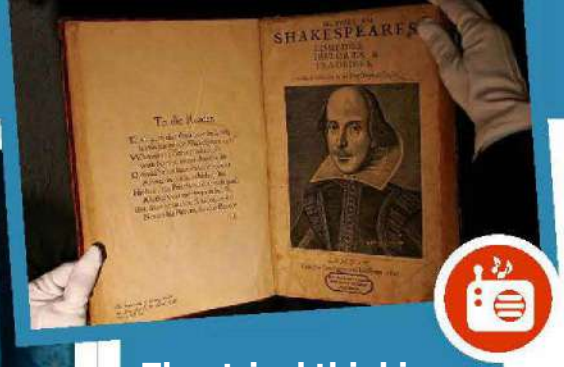
The Coronation connection is that Kashket & Partners are master tailors specialising in uniforms, while Firmin & Sons are the metalworkers whose job is to turn out shiny new buttons with the letters 'CR' stamped on them. In the run-up to the Coronation, both of these deeply traditional businesses are every bit as busy as you might expect.

▶▶ *For more about the history of coronations, turn to page 50*

ALAMY X3

WEEKLY TV & RADIO
Visit ***historyextra.com*** for updates on upcoming TV and radio programmes

A new BBC Radio 4 discussion series marks 400 years since the publication of William Shakespeare's First Folio



Theatrical thinking

Taking Issue with Shakespeare / BBC Radio 4, Monday 17 April

It's 400 years since the First Folio, which collected together the plays of William Shakespeare, was first published. Without it, many of his works might have been lost forever.

A new weekday series marks this anniversary by asking whether the Bard's work can help resolve today's problems and, in turn, whether discussing questions in this way offers fresh insights into the plays.

Each of the shows features Emma Smith, professor of Shakespeare Studies at Oxford, in conversation with a public figure. In an episode with Michael Gove, *King Lear* acts as a starting point for a discussion about levelling up, while *Hamlet* serves as a gateway for Will Self to ponder toxic masculinity. Gordon Brown and Shriti Vadera (on populism and *Julius Caesar*), Fiona Shaw (on moving from city to country and *As You Like It*) and Mercy Muroki (on monarchy and *Richard II*) also feature.

MAIN: **Golda Rosheuvel, seen here with co-star Hugh Sachs, reprises her role as Queen Charlotte in *Bridgerton*'s new spin-off**

BELOW RIGHT: **India Ria Amarteifio, who starred in Sky's adaptation of *The Midwich Cuckoos*, plays a younger version of the royal**

She's uncertain if she likes him...

Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story / Netflix, streaming from Thursday 4 May

On 8 September 1761, within six hours of arriving at St James's Palace in London from Germany, Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz was elevated to the very pinnacle of British society through her marriage to King George III. The couple's wedding day was also the first day they ever met.

How much of this precise story has made its way into *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* was difficult to gauge as *BBC History Revealed* went to press, but we'd suspect not too much. Then again, strict historical accuracy has never exactly been key to *Bridgerton*'s success. Rather, the world of the *ton* has become a worldwide hit via a combination of high production values, intricately calibrated plots and diverse casting, which combine to give *Bridgerton* such a different vibe to other period dramas.

This much we do know. The prequel will relate how the young Charlotte (India Ria Amarteifio) and George (Corey Mylchreest) fall in love. Footage released last year showed Charlotte trying to make a getaway by climbing over a garden wall rather than meet the monarch, so we can presumably expect a few hitches as the two get to know each other.

The show, scripted by *Bridgerton* head honcho Shonda Rhimes, will also look at the backstory of Lady Danbury (played as a younger woman by Arsema Thomas), the Duke of Hastings' mentor in the first season of *Bridgerton*, and promises to explain just how she and Charlotte came to be so close.

Meantime, a third season of *Bridgerton* is in production. It's been strongly hinted that it will focus on the relationship between Penelope Featherington, aka gossip writer Lady Whistledown (Nicola Coughlan), and Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton).

▶▶ *To learn more about the court of King George III and Queen Charlotte, turn to page 59*

***The Last Kingdom*'s feature-length conclusion sees Uhtred (Alexander Dreymon, *centre*) facing some tricky dilemmas**

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2, NETFLIX X3, BBC X1

Conserved for the nation

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust / BBC Two, May

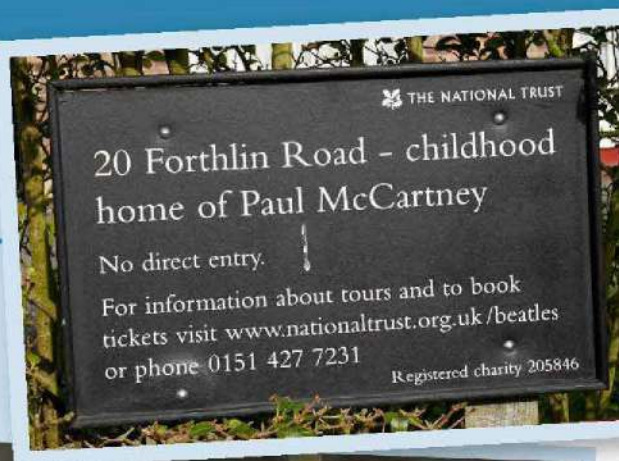
The sheer scale of the National Trust is boggling. With more than 5.3 million members and 10,000 staff, it is responsible for the care and conservation of more than 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves, 250,000 hectares of farmland and close to 780 miles of coastline – "for everyone, for ever" as the charity itself puts it.

How best to understand the work of such a huge organisation? One approach is to focus in, to search for stories that reveal wider themes, and that's precisely the approach taken in this new series from the team that went behind the scenes at the V&A to make *Secrets of the Museum*.

As with its predecessor, there's a chance to peek over the shoulders of experts and conservators as they work to preserve the past for future generations. This time around, too, viewers also meet some of the volunteers so essential to keeping the National Trust running on a day-to-day basis. Each episode has a different regional focus.

As for the properties and objects on view, their range says much about why the National Trust's work is about far more than preserving country houses. In 1995, for example, the National Trust bought 20 Forthlin Road in Allerton, south Liverpool. Not only was this former council house one of the childhood homes of Paul McCartney, but it's been called "the birthplace of the Beatles" because it was here the band wrote and rehearsed their earliest songs.

Most importantly, what's the story behind brick-pattern wallpaper at the house?


THE NATIONAL TRUST
20 Forthlin Road – childhood home of Paul McCartney
No direct entry.
For information about tours and to book tickets visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beatles or phone 0151 427 7231
Registered charity 205846

BBC Two's fly-on-the-wall series visits the National Trust's most unique properties, such as 20 Forthlin Road (*right*), while also shining a light on the organisation's conservation work (*below*)

Destiny is (still) all

The Last Kingdom: Seven Kings Must Die / Netflix, streaming from Friday 14 April

When *The Last Kingdom* reached its conclusion last year after five seasons, it's safe to say there was a certain amount of disgruntlement amongst fans. This was because some were unhappy that events in the latter novels of Bernard Cornwell's bestselling series weren't going to make it to the screen.

Or so it seemed until Netflix announced *Seven Kings Must Die*, a feature-length sequel that begins with Lord Uhtred of Bebbanburg (Alexander Dreymon) enjoying – mild spoilers ahead – a comparatively quiet life as ruler of Northumbria. After a century of conflict between England's inhabitants and Nordic invaders, peace is threatening to break out. Although Uhtred has yet to pledge his lands to the throne, England is tantalisingly close to being united.

At which point, exit King Edward, whose death pits his two potential heirs, Æthelstan (Harry Gilby) and Ælfweard (Ewan Horrocks), against each other. Uhtred's instinct is to side with his former ward and protégé, Æthelstan, but it soon becomes clear the young prince is receiving questionable advice.

If all that weren't tricky enough, there's a new threat in the form of a Danish warrior-king, Anlaf, who is hoping to sow further discord in what's already a fractious country. Not for the first time, Uhtred is caught between two worlds.

Deadly duo

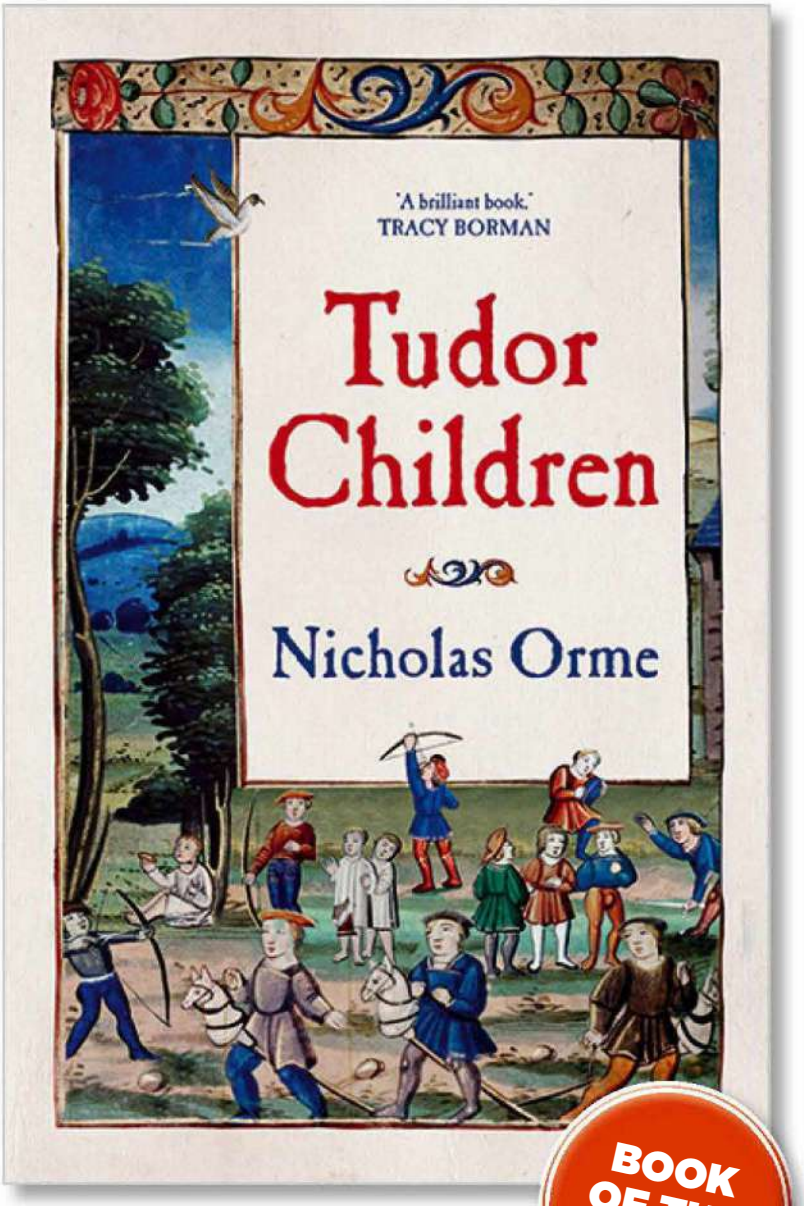
An Eye for a Killing / BBC Radio 4, Friday 28 April

The crimes of William Burke and William Hare made them infamous. Here were two men who, through 1828, committed multiple murders and sold the bodies of their unfortunate victims for dissection by Edinburgh's anatomists.

But for all the duo's notoriety, much of their story is poorly understood. This docudrama series should help bring clarity as it offers expert perspectives on such questions as why only Burke was convicted and hanged. The series draws extensively on the archives and sheds new light not just on the killers, but those they preyed upon, too.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Tudor Children

By Nicholas Orme
Yale University Press, £20, hardback, 288 pages

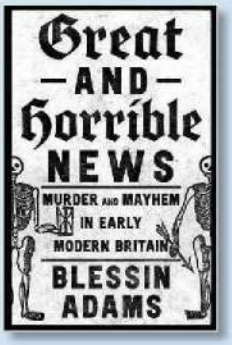
Don't know your nine men's morris from your blind man's buff? Learning about such games, and the ways in which young people spent their leisure time, are just some of the joys of this wide-ranging exploration of childhood in Tudor England. From infancy to adolescence, Nicholas Orme guides us through playtime and mealtimes, the schoolyard and the world of work. It's not all fun and games: there are hardships and dangers here, but they're easily matched by love and affection, songs and laughter.

LISTEN
Nicholas Orme will be discussing *Tudor Children* on a future episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast: *historyextra.com/podcast*

Great and Horrible News: Murder and Mayhem in Early Modern Britain

By Blessin Adams
William Collins, £18.99, hardback, 304 pages

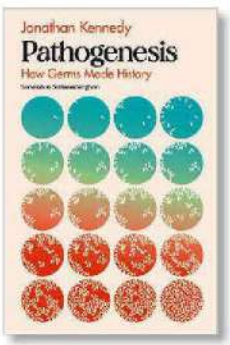
This look at the 17th-century obsession with crime and carnage takes its title from the phrase emblazoned on the pamphlets that breathlessly relayed the titillating details of the latest grisly death. Its author, Blessin Adams, is a former police officer turned academic, and she brings a meticulous eye and deep empathy to tales of people coming face to face with extreme and upsetting situations. Together, these case studies offer a compelling picture of the laws, morals and values of Britain four centuries ago.

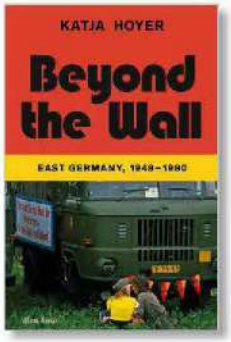


Pathogenesis: How Germs Made History

By Jonathan Kennedy
Torva, £25, hardback, 384 pages

As we know only too well from recent experience, germs have the power to upend to an extent hugely disproportionate to their tiny size. Yet, this book argues, microbes have actually shaped the course of human development far more than we give them credit for. Ranging from our species' earliest days to the birth of Britain's welfare state via the fall of Rome, the Black Death and the Industrial Revolution, this is big-picture history that aims to make us think anew about the forces behind historical change.





Beyond the Wall: East Germany, 1949–1990

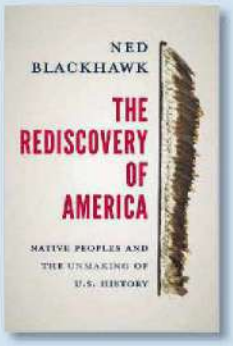
By Katja Hoyer
Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 496 pages

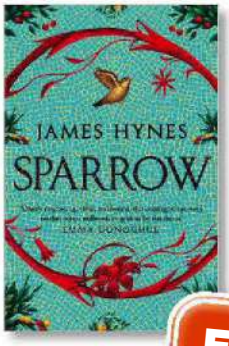
The darker aspects of life in East Germany – the economic hardships, the political repression, the systemic state surveillance – were so significant that they have, understandably, come to dominate our view of the nation in the decades since its demise. While not diminishing these important threads, Katja Hoyer's extensively researched account skilfully weaves them into a broader, brighter tapestry, one that also features richer cultural, political and social elements than we sometimes realise.

The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of US History

By Ned Blackhawk
Yale University Press, £25, hardback, 576 pages

The experiences of Native American people have, when included in historical accounts at all, tended to be viewed solely through the prisms of victimhood and violence. Leading scholar Ned Blackhawk fits those aspects of the story into a wider whole, making the United States' diverse Indigenous populations the protagonists. In doing so, he reveals the ways in which they drove the currents of both US history and the nation's place in the world.





FICTION

Sparrow

By James Hynes
Picador, £16.99, hardback, 464 pages

Transporting readers to the very edge of a crumbling Roman empire, James Hynes' novel charts the life of Sparrow, a young boy being brought up by the women of the town's brothel. As he grows to understand more about his world – the sex, the slavery, the cruelty – his place within it begins to change forever. Dealing with themes that some readers may find difficult, and by turns brutal and tender, this is vivid, atmospheric stuff.

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcasts from the BBC and HistoryExtra

History's Greatest Cities

bit.ly/CitiesPod120

Indulge your historical wanderlust – if only virtually – with this new *HistoryExtra* podcast series that roams through some of Europe's greatest metropolises. Each episode sees travel journalist Paul Bloomfield joined by an expert historian guide as they navigate the streets and sites of cities including Berlin, Madrid, Rome and Prague. It's a great way of crossing continents and centuries – without paying the airfare.

Lady Killers

bit.ly/LucyPod120

Historian and broadcaster Dr Lucy Worsley returns with a second run of her podcast series re-examining historical crimes perpetrated by women. Joined by a host of legal experts, psychologists and comedians, along with historical consultant Professor Rosalind Crone, Worsley sets out to view these cases afresh – and reveal the circumstances that led such women to commit acts that scandalised society.

The real Dick Whittington

bit.ly/WhittingtonPod120

We may now know Dick Whittington through his pantomime incarnation as poor boy turned London mayor, but the yarn does have roots in reality. Those roots may sometimes be on the sketchy side – Dick's faithful companion Thomas quickly turns out to be a strictly fictional feline, for instance – but the real Richard's exploits, and the reasons they've had such staying power, are fascinating in their own right.

ROBERT SHIRET X1

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY

MUST SEE

The exhibition has been produced in partnership with the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery

EXHIBITION

Hogarth's Britons: Succession, Patriotism and the Jacobite Rebellion

William Hogarth is often regarded as one of Britain's greatest artists, famous for creating works imbued with sharp social satire. This new exhibition at Derby Museum & Art Gallery brings together some of Hogarth's most celebrated pieces, with a focus on the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, when supporters of the exiled Stuart dynasty invaded England in a bid to overthrow the Hanoverian regime. Notably, Derby would be their final stop before retreating to Scotland – a link explored in the display.

FREE ENTRY Derby Museum & Art Gallery, until 4 June 2023, *derbymuseums.org*

Hepworth with the plaster of *Figure for Landscape* and a bronze cast of *Figure (Archaean)*

OLIVER TAYLOR-DERBY MUSEUMS, BOWNESS, HEPWORTH ESTATE X1

EXHIBITION

Rendlesham Revealed: The Heart of a Kingdom AD 400–800

The Suffolk village of Rendlesham was once the site of England's wealthiest Anglo-Saxon royal settlement. This new exhibition, at nearby Sutton Hoo, highlights its importance and showcases an array of never-before-seen items, including gold jewellery, sword fittings and pottery.

PAID ENTRY Sutton Hoo, Woodbridge, Suffolk, until 29 October 2023, *nationaltrust.org.uk*

EXHIBITION

Hidden Histories: Exploring Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

How can museums better represent the diversity of the human experience? That's the question at the heart of this display curated by The McManus in Dundee, using items from its 20th-century art collection to examine ways in which historically marginalised voices can be properly heard.

FREE ENTRY The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, throughout 2023, *mcmanus.co.uk*

EXHIBITION

Barbara Hepworth: Art & Life

Barbara Hepworth was responsible for creating some of the most striking modernist sculptures of the 20th century. This retrospective, themed around Hepworth's broader cultural interests, collates many of her finest works – including some that haven't been displayed since the 1970s.

PAID ENTRY Towner Eastbourne, East Sussex, 27 May to 3 September 2023, *townereastbourne.org.uk*

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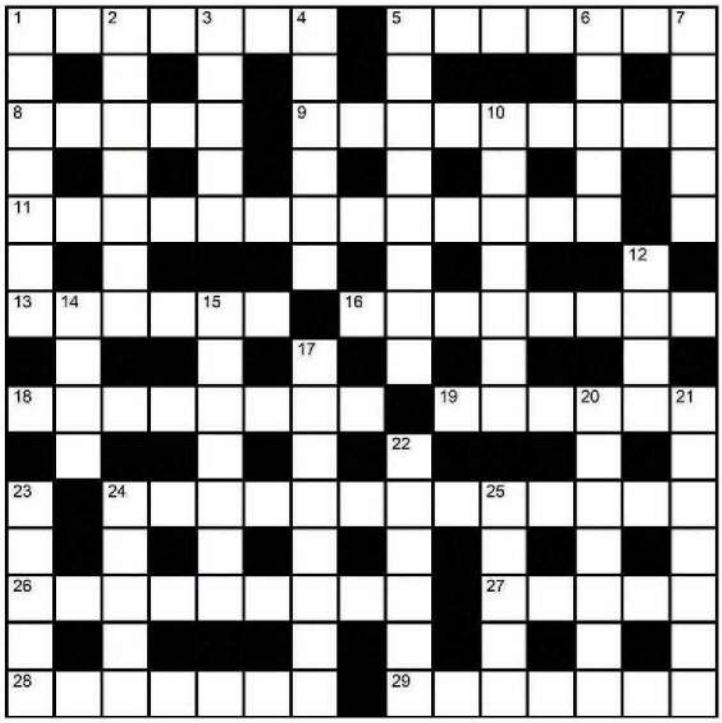
ACROSS

1 Historic capital of Silesia (7)
5 Boris ___ (b1937), Russian chess grandmaster (7)
8 Marco ___ (b1971), Florida senator (5)
9 *Et* ___ *ego*, motto from a painting of 1637–38 by Nicolas Poussin (2,7)
11 Client king of Judea in the first century BC (5,3,5)
13 City of South Dakota, founded in 1880 (6)
16 Boastful Shakespearean rogue (8)
18 New York prison opened in 1826 (4,4)
19 Ancient region of the Middle East (6)
24 Term for the ethos of the US coined by James Truslow Adams in 1931 (8,5)
26 Richard ___ (b1960), US filmmaker (9)
27 Abrahamic patriarch, later given the name Israel (5)
28 ___ *End*, 1910 novel by EM Forster (7)
29 US western series, 1959–73 (7)

DOWN

1 HMS *Warrior* or USS *Olympia*, say (7)
2 George ___ (b1971), chancellor of the Exchequer from 2010 to 2016 (7)
3/4 Frank (1867–1959), US architect (5,6)
5 Asian megacity, occupied since around 4000 BC (8)
6 Anwar ___ (1918–81), third president of Egypt (5)
7 William Butler ___ (1865–1939), Irish poet (5)



Set by Richard Smyth

10 ___ Royal Hospital, military retirement home founded in 1694 (7)
12 Eighth-century king of Mercia (4)
14 Greek goddess of the rainbow (4)
15 Purported scene of a 1947 'UFO' recovery (7)
17 1888 poem by William Ernest Henley (8)
20 Town in Normandy, renowned historically for its fine lace (7)
21 Country of southwest Africa, independent since 1990 (7)
22 City of Croatia, designated a free royal city in 1242 (6)
23 Sir Toby ___, character in *Twelfth Night* (5)
24 Spiro ___ (1918–96), 39th vice president of the US (5)
25 French city, medieval seat of the Dukes of Burgundy (5)

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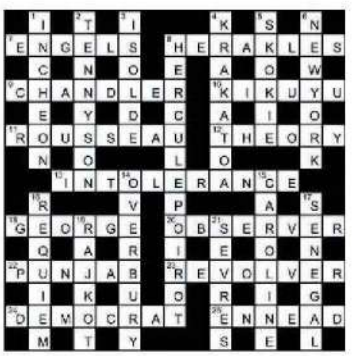
SOLUTION Nº 118



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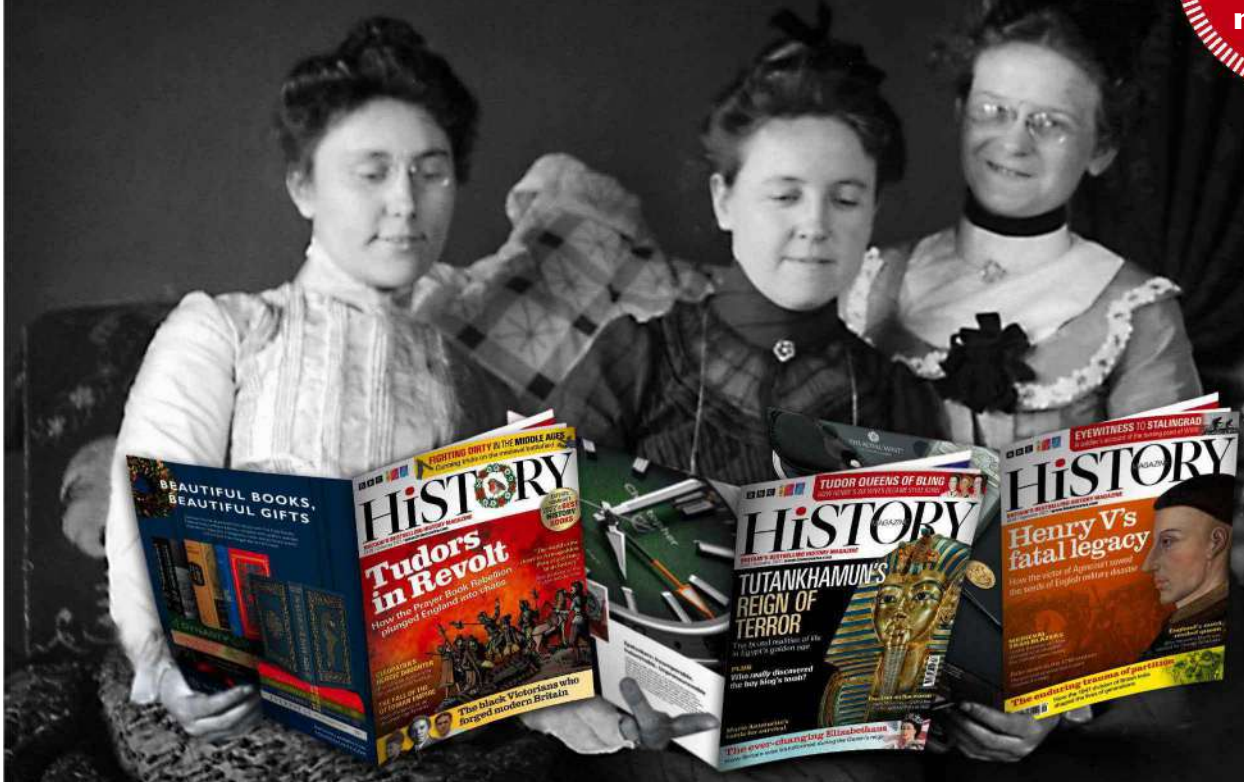

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The three lucky winners of the prize crossword in issue 117 are as follows:

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S Needham, West Yorkshire
E Timney, Tyne and Wear

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BBC HISTORY REVEALED

ISSUE 120 – MAY 2023

BBC History Revealed is published by Immediate Media Company London Limited under licence from BBC Studios who help fund new BBC programmes

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Basic annual subscription rates
UK £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99
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HIGH MASS 1931

An icon of Rio de Janeiro and a worldwide symbol of Brazil, the 30-metre-tall statue known as *Christ the Redeemer* was officially unveiled on 12 October 1931. Up to 500 priests took part in the dedication ceremony, shown here, which saw the statue receiving a blessing to the sounds of citywide bellringing. The event was also supposed to see the structure illuminated by a bank of floodlights – switched on by a radio signal from Rome – but this was halted due to poor weather; instead, the lights were activated at the site itself. While *Christ the Redeemer* may be less than a century old, there had been plans for erecting a Christian monument on Rio's Mount Corcovado since the 1850s. It was only in 1922, to mark 100 years of Brazil's independence, that the foundation stone was laid, with engineer Heitor da Silva Costa, artist Carlos Oswald and sculptor Paul Landowski all contributing to the design. A Romanian sculptor, Gheorghe Leonida, had the honour of creating Christ's face.

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